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VOLUME 20 . ISSUE 05 SINCE 1986 WWW.Q-NOTES.COM JULY 16 . 2005

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Do you think gays and lesbians face a greater chance of violent attacks now, as opposed to 10 years ago?

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United Church of Christ vandalized after leadership gives OK to gay marriage

Following same-sex marriage support, UCC in Middlebrook, Va. set on fire

by Donald Miller

ATLANTA — Meeting in the Georgia capital city July 4, the United Church of Christ's rule-making body overwhelmingly endorsed same-sex marriage, making it the largest Christian denomination to date to do so.

Most individuals in the 1.3 million-member UCC congregation are supportive of the resolution. Some non-members in the small town of Middlebrook, Va., weren't so happy with the pronouncement. So much so, that they were driven to vandalize St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 9.

According to a report from the *Staunton News-Leader*, a groundskeeper discovered the fire still smoldering when he stopped by early Saturday to cut the lawn. The outside of the building was spray-painted with anti-gay graffiti and a declaration that UCC members were "sinners."

Vandals apparently set fire to a pile of hymnals in the church sanctuary, causing damage to pews and the choir loft.

By the time the fire was discovered, it had burned itself out. Damage to the building was extensive enough, however, that Sunday services were held in tents on the church lawn.

In a press release from the United Church of Christ, The Rev. John H. Thomas, the UCC's general minister and president, responded to the incident.

"My heart goes out to the people of St. John's UCC in Middlebrook," Thomas said. "The violation of sacred space is traumatic for a congregation, particularly when a message of hate targets a church's efforts to reach out in the spirit of Christ's love to all people."

"I knew that the decision of our General Synod on July 4 to affirm marriage equality for same-gender couples would be controversial both within and beyond the church," he said. "It saddens me to realize that, for a few, disagreement has moved to acts of violence."

Despite the attack on the church, Garnett Phibbs, a member of UCC in Charlotte (and a former pastor with the Congregational Church, which evolved into the United Church of Christ) is still happy about UCC's support for same-sex marriage.

"I was amazed that we got an 80 percent vote out of 900 delegates from the meeting in Atlanta," said Phibbs. "I believe the church did the right thing."

Even though Phibbs is elated with the church's decision, he feels there's still a long way to go before same-sex marriage finds broader acceptance. "It's like how the church once reacted to slavery, it might take another 25-50 years before other churches will accept change."

Traditionally strong in New England, the liberal denomination has long been supportive of gays and lesbians. In North and South Carolina there are more than 100 UCC ministries.

Last year UCC was slammed for an ad campaign featuring a gay couple, among others, being excluded from a church. CBS and NBC rejected the 30-second ads.

The same-sex resolution, which specified that bisexual and transgender persons merit the same support and protections as gays and lesbians, was submitted by conferences from Southern California and Nevada.

According to the UCC Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, about 1,000 clergy or seminarians in UCC are gay.

Canada passes gay marriage nationwide

'We're a nation of minorities and in a nation of minorities you don't cherry-pick rights.' — PM Paul Martin

Canada becomes third country in world, first in the Americas to recognize same-sex marriages

Supported by most members of the Liberals, the Bloc Québécois and the NDP, the legislation passed easily, making Canada only the third country in the world, after the Netherlands and Belgium, to officially recognize same-sex marriage.

The "vote is about the Charter of Rights," said Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. "We're a nation of minorities and in a nation of minorities you don't cherry-pick rights."

The government has moved over the last few months to appease critics both

see **NORTHERN** *on 4*

Spain approves gay marriages

Thousands of gays ready to marry

Spain's lower house of parliament has voted in favor of allowing gay couples to marry and adopt children. The controversial decision overrules an earlier rejection of the bill by the upper house, the Senate.

The bill should be law by press time, making Spain Europe's third nation after the Netherlands and Belgium to allow same-sex marriages.

see **GAY** *on 4*

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero: 'We are expanding opportunities for the happiness of our neighbors, our work colleagues, our friends, our relatives.'

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Editor's note

Enemy of the people

In the conversation I had a couple of weeks ago with Jay Bakker, the son of televangelists Jim Bakker and his former wife Tammy Faye Messner, we talked about Jerry Falwell, one of the leading figures in the religious right movement today.

The mere mention of his name used to make my skin crawl. Smug, holier-than-thou, paunchy and capable of spewing out anti-gay rhetoric faster than a speeding bullet, he represents the complete embodiment of everything bad about evangelicals.

Over the past few decades, he's been responsible for some of the most outrageous and damaging comments — many directed at the LGBT community.

But, what has he done lately? At 72, is he still a danger to our community?

On the *Lawrence v. Texas* case that overturned sodomy laws across the country:

"This is probably as bad a day as the court has had on social issues since Roe v. Wade."

On turning America into a Theocracy:

"I hope I live to see the day when, as in the early days of our country, we won't have any public schools. The churches will have taken them over again and Christians will be running them. What a happy day that will be!"

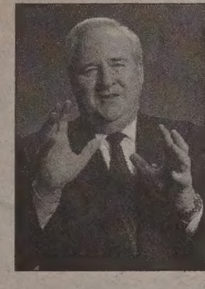
"There is no separation of church and state. Modern U.S. Supreme Courts have raped the Constitution and raped the Christian faith and raped the churches by misinterpreting what the Founders had in mind in the First Amendment to the Constitution."

"We must never allow our children to forget that this is a Christian nation. We must take back what is rightfully ours."

About AIDS:

"AIDS is not just God's punishment for homosexuals; it is God's punishment for the society that tolerates homosexuals."

"AIDS is the wrath of a just God against homosexuals. To oppose it would be like an Israelite jumping in the Red Sea to save one of Pharoah's charioteers."



Interpreting the Bible:

"The Bible is the inerrant ... word of the living God. It is absolutely infallible, without error in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as well as in areas such as geography, science, history, etc."

On Judaism:

"The Jews are returning to their land of unbelief. They are spiritually blind and desperately in need of their Messiah and Savior."

The American Civil Liberties Union:

"The ACLU is to Christians what the American Nazi party is to Jews."

On MCC:

Falwell referred to the the gay-oriented Metropolitan Community Churches as *"brute beasts"* and *"a vile and Satanic system"* that will *"one day be utterly annihilated and there will be a celebration in heaven."*

On 9/11:

"I really believe that the pagans and the abortionists and the feminists and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way, all of them who try to secularize America...I point the thing in their face and say you helped this happen."

On gays and lesbians:

"[Vice President Gore] recently praised the lesbian actress who plays 'Ellen' on ABC Television...I believe he may even put children, young people, and adults in danger by his public endorsement of deviant homosexual behavior...Our elected leaders are attempting to glorify and legitimize perversion."

"We cannot allow homosexuality to be presented to our nation as an alternative lifestyle. It will not only have a corrupting influence upon our next generation, but it will also bring down the wrath of God upon America."

"Someone must not be afriad to say, 'moral perversion is wrong.' If we do not act now, homosexuals will 'own' America!...If you and I do not speak up now, this homosexual steamroller will literally crush all decent men, women, and children who get in its way...and our nation will pay a terrible price!"

On religious freedom:

"If you're not a born-again Christian, you're a failure as a human being."

Some of Falwell's comments in recent years have given many Americans reason to believe the man has more than just a few screws loose. Who could forget Falwell referring to Ellen DeGeneres as "Ellen DeGenerate" or insisting that the "Teletubbie" TV character "Tinky Winky" was gay because he was purple, carried a purse and had an inverted triangle on his head?

At a pastors' conference in Kingsport, Tenn., he announced that the Antichrist prophesied in the Bible is alive today and then added, "of course he'll be Jewish."

There's no question that Falwell still commands a huge following, though it is clearly not as strong as it once was. With the recent retirement announcement from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Falwell has once again raised the flag for the evangelical call to arms with a petition on his website.

The petition reads:

Dear President Bush, With the sudden resignation of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, I humbly join with Dr. Jerry Falwell and millions of members and supporters of the Moral Majority Coalition in letting you know of our prayers for you at this critical time. I encourage you to remember your promise to nominate a justice who will strongly uphold and defend the constitution, rather than attempt to legislate from the bench.

Furthermore, I call on you to appoint a justice who is committed to the sanctity of life, both born and unborn and marriage as an institution designed by God for one man and one woman. Although your political enemies will use this occasion to put immense pressure on you to compromise your principles, please know that millions of Americans stand behind you as you defend the family and our traditional Judeo-Christian values.

Do I believe that Jerry Falwell is still relevant today and still a threat to millions of gay and lesbian Americans? I'd like to

see EDITOR'S on 7

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Northern neighbor passes gay marriage

from page 1

within Liberal ranks and among Canadians at large. Amendments were introduced to ensure no religious group or charitable organization would be forced to accept same-sex marriage. But in spite of those amendments some groups remain unconvinced.

Same-sex marriage remains one of the most difficult issues ever to confront Canadian politicians. In large part passage of the bill is the reason the parliamentary session was extended for the first time in 17 years.

But while the vote closes off the debate in the Commons, the Conservatives insist there is no closure for Canadians who believe marriage should continue to be defined as the union of a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all others.

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper says if his party forms the next government, the law will be revisited.

Harper made the promise one day after suggesting the adoption of the law lacked legitimacy because it relied on the support of the separatist Bloc Québécois. Harper said he believes Bloc lawmakers are the legitimate representatives of Quebec voters. But he argues most Canadians aren't buying it as a final decision since most federalist lawmakers are opposed to same-sex marriage.

Harper says a Conservative government would hold a free vote for all lawmakers on the matter, rather than forcing cabinet ministers to vote with the government.

— from Canadian Wire services

Gay marriage approved by Spain

from page 1

Polls suggest most Spaniards back the move, although a few weeks ago thousands joined a Madrid rally against the bill.

A Roman Catholic group had presented lawmakers with a 600,000-signature petition opposing the legislation and were lobbying hard for a referendum on the issue.

They are urging conservatives to take legal action to have gay marriages declared unconstitutional.

Some of Spain's local mayors have said they will not officiate at gay marriages.

The Roman Catholic Church wields great influence in Spain, but the news reports indicate that since the Madrid bomb attacks in March 2004, Spaniards want unity among their people more than anything.

The vote was carried with 187 votes in favor, 147 against and four abstentions.

The new legislation is one of a series of social reforms, including faster divorce proceedings, being introduced by Spain's socialist government, led by Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Addressing MPs before the vote Zapatero made an appeal for the law to be passed:

"We were not the first, but I am sure we will not be the last. After us will come many other countries, driven, ladies and gentlemen, by two unstoppable forces: freedom and equality," he said. "We are not legislating, ladies and gentlemen, for remote unknown people. We are expanding opportunities for the happiness of our neighbors, our work colleagues, our friends, our relatives."

There were cheers outside parliament following the vote.

The new law puts same-sex and heterosexual marriages on the same legal footing, including the right to adopt children.

About 5,000 gay couples in Spain have already announced they are ready to tie the knot.

— from British wire reports

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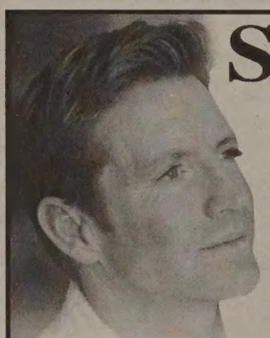

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News notes

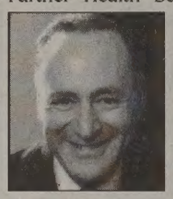
from around the nation & globe

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

National >

Senate bill targets tax inequity

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act has been re-filed in the Senate, where it died last year. The bill, sponsored by senators Gordon H. Smith (R-Ore.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y., pictured), would amend the Internal Revenue Code to treat same-sex domestic partners and married couples the same for the purposes of taxing a partner's health benefits.



Under current law if a lesbian earns $40,000 a year at a company that offers domestic partner health benefits and her partner's insurance is valued at $200 a month ($2,400 annually), she will be taxed on $42,400 at the end of the year. By comparison, a married man covering his wife in the same situation will only be taxed on his $40,000 salary.

"The strongest businesses in the country offer domestic partner benefits because fair and equitable workplaces are good for the bottom line," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Making those benefits unaffordable through additional taxes is bad for business, and it's not fair to employees."

Cop accused of raping TS woman

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Police officer Dean Gutierrez, 45, was arrested July 5 and charged with sexual assault in the rape of Starlight Bernal, 22, a transsexual woman. Bernal told investigators that on June 10 a San Antonio policeman stopped her under the pretense that he needed to check for warrants then raped her in his patrol car.

DNA tests on bodily fluids found in the vehicle and on Bernal led investigators to 16-year force veteran Gutierrez. He was placed on administrative duty while the investigation proceeded. After the charges were filed the department began the process of terminating him.

"The citizens of this community deserve to trust every police officer on the street," said San Antonio Police Chief Albert Ortiz. "Hopefully, by handling this case expeditiously ... [it] sends a message to the community that trusting San Antonio police officers is worthwhile."

If convicted, Gutierrez could face life behind bars.

High court marriage ruling sought

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In an effort to expedite the legal process, State Attorney General Bill Lockyer has formally asked the California Supreme Court to hear and resolve four lawsuits challenging state laws against same-sex marriage that are currently working their way through lower courts. None of the cases is expected to reach the high court before 2007.

In his petition Lockyer noted, "Review by the Court of Appeal will necessarily and substantially extend the uncertainty regarding whether California's marriage laws are constitutional. Same-sex couples should be given a prompt determination as to whether they can marry, and should not have to put their lives and affairs on hold indefinitely while this matter works its way through several levels of court proceedings.

"In addition, federal, state and local public officials should be given prompt clarification of their duties and responsibilities under California's marriage laws."

At press time the high court had not responded to the Attorney General's request.

Cop gets life for killing student

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Steven Rios (pictured), 28, a former Columbia police officer, was sentenced July 5 to life in prison without parole for the throat-slashing death of Jesse Valencia, 23, a gay University of Missouri-Columbia student with whom he had been having a secret affair.

Rios met the victim on April 18, 2004, when he arrested Valencia for interfering with officers responding to a peace disturbance call. According to testimony, the married officer turned up at Valencia's apartment the following night for sex. Valencia later told family and friends that Rios was becoming rough with him and wouldn't stop following him, but he didn't heed their warnings to file a complaint.

Valencia's body was discovered June 5 about a block from his apartment. He had last been seen about 3:30 a.m. that morning walking home from a party. Rios worked until 3 a.m., part of his beat included the campus area where Valencia's body was found.

Rios has maintained his innocence and his lawyer said he will appeal the verdict.

P'Town hits marriage milestone

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. — Peter Warnock and John Culver made history earlier this month when they became the 1000th same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in this gay tourist destination. The 10-year couple, who had been considering getting hitched for a while, were spurred to action when they learned that the official count was 999.

The employees at Town Hall were anticipating the milestone, too. The clerk's office was filled with balloons, there was a wedding cake and a photographer was on hand to capture the moment for posterity. Warnock and Culver said they will have a big family wedding next month.

Since May 17, 2004, when gay marriage became legal, more same-sex marriage licenses have been issued in Provincetown than any other Massachusetts municipality. There is no doubt that the figure would be far greater than 1,000 if out-of-state residents were allowed to marry — an issue that the Supreme Judicial Court will take up in October.

see next page >

Lincoln Memorial vid moves right

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Documents secured under the *Freedom of Information Act* reveal that The National Park Service has purchased footage of "conservative - right-wing demonstrations" to edit into the eight-minute video that plays at the Lincoln Memorial in response to conservatives' complaints that the footage pushes a liberal ideology.

The original video, which includes clips from demonstrations staged by gays, pro-choice activists and ERA supporters, as well as Martin Luther King Jr.'s landmark "I Have a Dream" speech, was funded by high school students who created it in collaboration with the Park Service. It has been seen by millions of Lincoln Memorial visitors since 1994.

According to The Associated Press, the service has spent about $20,000 on footage that includes President George W. Bush and his dad walking down the Memorial steps together, a demonstration by gun rights proponents and a rally in support of the Iraq war. At press time the final edit had not been made available for screening.

International >

Saint Bob thanks London Pride

LONDON, England — Pride marchers were thrilled when a special guest arrived to deliver a message prior to the kick-off of the July 2 parade. Leaving his own massive Live 8 benefit concert in Hyde Park, Bob Geldof came over to thank the gay community for supporting his charitable event and its goal of eradicating African poverty.

"Between what you people are doing and the people in the park are doing and the people around the world, we are going to stop one vast oppression of a vast minority — that's what we are going to do today," Geldof said.

The march was the culmination of two weeks of Pride activities. More than 300,000 people, including civil rights organizers, men in leather, club boys and drag queens, participated. At a rally following the parade, actor Sir Ian McKellen, London mayor Ken Livingstone and gay rights activist Peter Tatchell spoke to the crowd.

Gay bashings rooted in politics

EDMONTON, Canada — Activists believe that two separate attacks on gay men in the province have been sparked by the comments of local politicians who oppose the federal same-sex marriage law. Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has told reporters his Conservative government is exploring ways to get around the legislation.

Murray Billet, a gay community leader, said, "When we have a provincial government that behaves the way [this one] does, in such a homophobic manner, the verbal kind of gay bashing, it almost endorses and validates some of the narrow-minded activity ... in our community."

In the first attack Ryan Mackenzie, 21, and his friends were walking to a Pride celebration when four men jumped them. Mackenzie was punched in the face. In the second bashing, Guy Cohoon and his boyfriend were swarmed by about eight young men. Cohoon was knocked down and repeatedly kicked in the head. At press time a man has been arrested in connection with the assault on Mackenzie.

MP condones stoning gays

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Dr. Ashraf Choudhary (pictured), a member of Parliament in Prime Minister Helen Clark's ruling Labour Party and a devout muslim, has drawn fire for his comments supporting the stoning of gays and adulterers in nations that follow strict Islamic law.

Choudhary was appearing on a TV news program when he was asked if he thought the Quran was wrong to call for such penalties. "No, no. Certainly what the Quran says is correct," he replied, although he tempered his comments by adding, "In those societies, not here in New Zealand."

Prime Minister Clark strongly denounced Choudhary's comments. "Clearly Ashraf is a devout Muslim and he will have his own view, but for the record let me spell out the Labor Party does not support capital punishment. It does not support flogging. It does not support stoning. We have very strong views about that. I don't care whether it's in any religious tract, it's not something that's acceptable to me."

HIV drug breakthrough touted

KOBE, Japan — A team of Japanese researchers say they have developed a potent new HIV drug that blocks the virus from entering human cells and causes almost no side effects. The drug, named AK602, was unveiled here at the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific on July 5.

The developers of AK602 say that the drug works by blocking HIV at the point that it tries to invade a human cell. According to researcher Hiroaki Mitsuya, AK602 sticks to a protein called CCR5 that acts as an entrance for HIV into human cells. Once the drug attaches to the protein, Mitsuya says it can prevent HIV from entering and, in turn, from spreading.

Researchers conducted clinical tests of AK602 on 40 AIDS patients in the U.S. When they took 600 milligrams of the drug twice a day for 10 days, their HIV count dropped to about one percent on average. Almost no side effects were reported.

Editor's Note

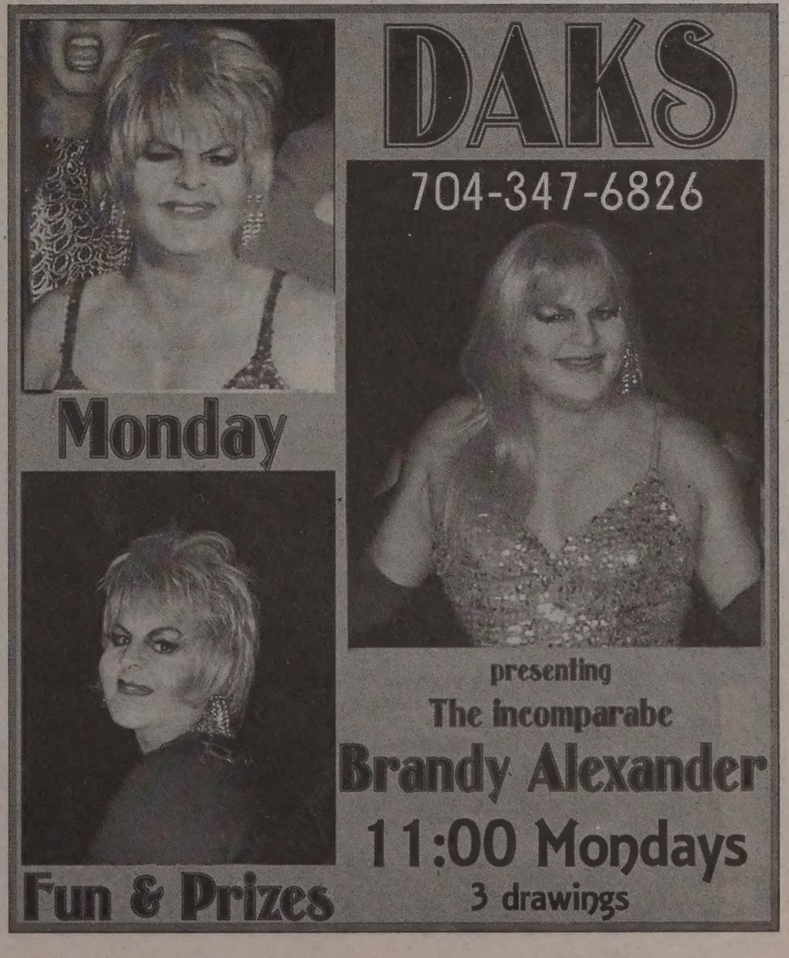
from page 3

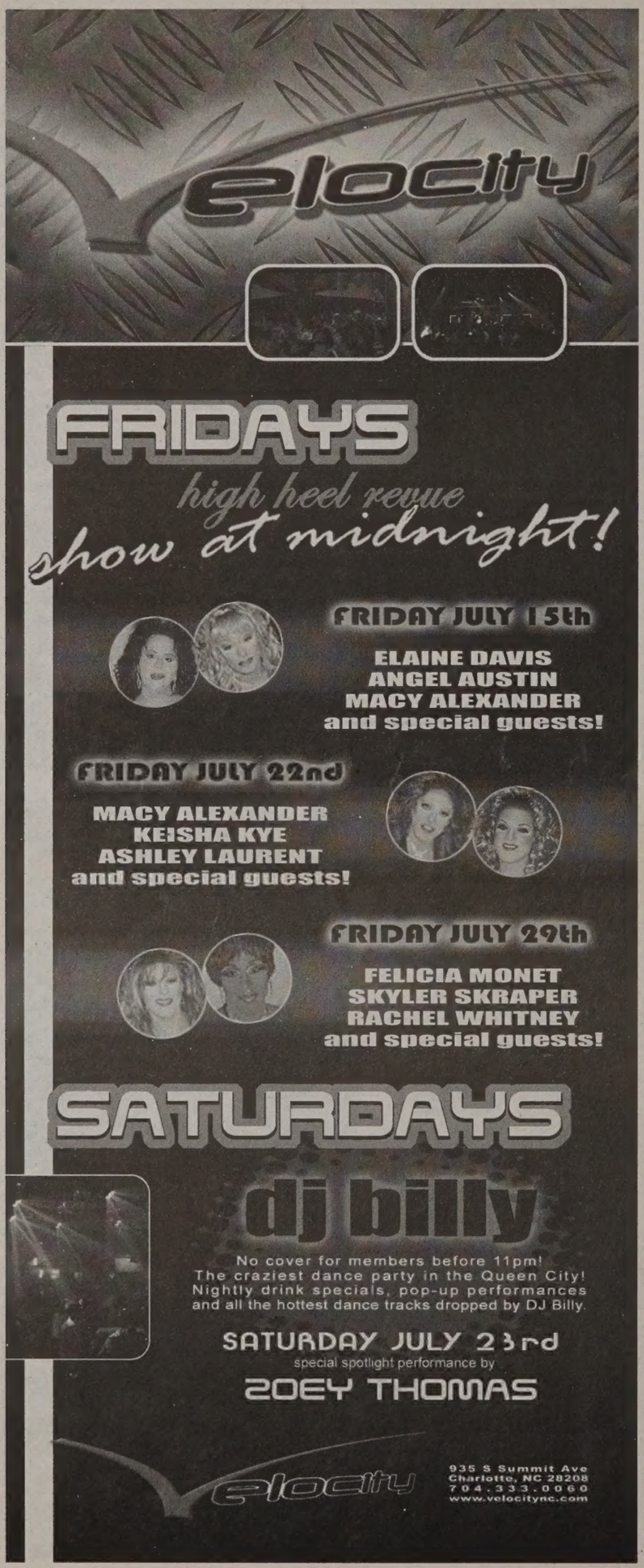
chuckle and just call him a crazy old fool. Such efforts as the one above and the minions he has inspired to carry on his work do indeed make Falwell a serious concern.

It is our job, however, to teach America that all people, despite their differences, must live side by side in respect and equality. Individuals like Falwell must be exposed as the true enemy of the people that they are.

Their continued call for a society governed by the text of the King James Bible threatens to destroy everything America stands for.

— David Moore
Editor





News notes: nc

from the tarheel state

by Lainey Millen
Q-Notes staff

PFLAG Comes Out in North Carolina

CHARLOTTE — More than 40 PFLAG members from throughout the Carolinas gathered in Charlotte June 25 to partake in a one-day PFLAG Regional Conference at Spirit Square. While LGBT political issues continue to heat up in N.C. and S.C., support for family and friends continues to be a central focus for PFLAG.

The conference included presentations about transgender issues, safe schools and youth, chapter membership and included a viewing of the locally filmed "Coming Out ~ Coming In: Faith, Identity and Belonging," a documentary about gay people in the church.

In attendance for the conference was the new Executive Director of PFLAG National, Jody Huckaby (pictured).

Huckaby recently joined PFLAG in Washington D.C. after 14 years of non-profit executive experience with organizations in Texas, New Mexico and Washington D.C.

"I am extremely happy to be here today with all of you who have been doing such tremendous work for so long as part of this great organization."

Huckaby said at the conference. "The challenges you all have faced from working to defeat a constitutional amendment in S.C., to working hand-in-hand with the PTA in N.C., have been remarkable. And to have one of our own chapter founders, Harriet Hancock, honored through the naming of the Harriet Hancock GLBT Community Center in Columbia is something we continue to celebrate."

Bring it on in song

WILMINGTON — The first Friday of each month from 7-9 p.m., Stone Heart Gallery of Chandler's Wharf and Spotted Kiva Productions sponsors an Indiegrrl Music Showcase featuring performing members of the Indiegrrl Music organization.

Indiegrrl is the largest music organization supporting women singer/songwriters. It was founded by Holly Figueroa, a Seattle, Wash.-based singer/songwriter in 1998. Today, Indiegrrl has over 1500 members worldwide. Performing members are featured in showcases and festivals around the world.

On the line up for Aug. 5 will be Kent, Ohio, based singer/songwriter Sue Jeffers, with Wilmington's performing member Vicki Blankenship (pictured) serving as host.

Blankenship tours across the U.S. and appears in many festivals, showcases and top headlining venues. She is the co-owner and operations director of Spotted Kiva Productions, a CD/DVD dublicating and web design business that works with Indie singer/songwriters from around the world. Debbie Lehman, owner of Stone Heart Gallery in the Chandlers Wharf Shopping Mall, is the co-sponsor of this event. In case of bad weather the showcase will be moved inside into the fountain area of the shopping mall. People are invited to bring a lawn chair and a picnic basket and enjoy the entertainment. An optional $3+ donation is greatly appreciated for the performers.

For more information, visit www.indiegrrl.com or www.spottedkivaproductions.com.

Thousands raised for AIDS services

CHARLOTTE — Metrolina AIDS Project's (MAP) Guess Who's Turning 20? was held May 21. MAP announced that in one evening more than $70,000 was raised to serve its client base.

MAP turned 20 this year, and after 14 "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" celebrations it was decided to revamp it's most notable fundraiser with this year's birthday celebration. The festivity took place at the Hilton Center City atrium.

Since its founding in 1985, MAP has assisted thousands of people with HIV/AIDS education, information and direct financial assistance. Their signature fundraising event, Guess Who's Turning 20? provided opportunities for raising funds, garnering media coverage and keeping the message ablaze.

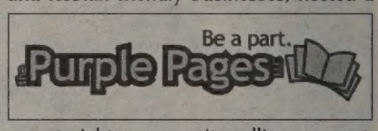
Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and the event's signature dessert spread beautifully displayed at the Hilton Charlotte Center City. DJ pair Savannah-Rose kept the crowd lively outside while a jazz trio within the atrium set the mood for the silent auction.

Sponsors for this event were Piedmont Natural Gass, Wachovia, Hilton Charlotte Center City, US Airways and Allied Security.

To make a secure tax deductible donation, visit www.metrolinaaidsproject.org. For more information about MAP, volunteer opportunities and services provided, call 704-333-1435.

Putting purple to the task

ASHEVILLE — The Purple Pages, a locally-based community guide to gay- and lesbian-friendly businesses, hosted a



gay-straight community alliance event, Purple Pages Pajama Party, on June 18 at Club Eleven.

The venue was held for participants to have an opportunity to receive growing support for open and diverse business practices in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

The two-year-old business guide provides a resource that details which businesses and organizations identify them-

see next page >

selves as LGBT-friendly and safe to conduct business.

Clients' support have come from Mayor Charles Worley, Buncombe County Commissioner David Gantt, area business entrepreneur Laurey Masterton and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Purple Pages prints 40,000 copies and is made available to the four-county area it serves. It is the only resource available that provides comfort and direction in choosing physicians, dentists, auto repair service, legal advice and many other much needed services.

For more information, call 828-350-9970, email info@ashevillepurplepages.com or visit www.ashevillepurplepages.com.

Power dating returns

CHARLOTTE — Back by popular demand, on Aug. 21, 2 p.m, at The Charlotte Gay and Lesbian Community Center, guys will get a chance to meet in round-robin style.

This popular event takes place in a pleasant, smoke-free setting. It's a great way to practice dating skills in a no-pressure setting and maybe meet some new friends, fellow travel enthusiasts or even a special someone. Advance registration is required. A $10 per person donation helps support The Center's programs and events. For more information or to sign up, call The Center at 704-333-0144.

TCW hosts sale

RALEIGH — Triangle Community Works (TCW) will host its annual rummage sale on July 30, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parking lot of St. John's MCC, 805 Glenwood Ave.

TWC uses the proceeds to help support TCW and its programs, such as Gay and Lesbian Helpline, Games Night, Seminar Works, Community Leadership Summits, Healthworks and others. Donations of slightly used clothes, furniture, books, CDs, DVDs, home decor items or anything else that are useful will be gratefully accepted. TWC will be accepting donations in the parking lot the evening of July 29 from 6-9 p.m., or by making other arrangements with volunteers.

For more information, call 919-256-3672.

Jammin in July

NASHVILLE — July Jam started in 1994 in tiny Nashville, N.C. (not to be confused with its bigger Tennessee cousin). Initially,

it was just a big party to get people together and have a good time. It charged a small admission to go towards entertainment and food. The acoustic musician duo CommonbonD opened it up and The July Jam was an even bigger success.

In 1995, July Jam was approached by an organization called Down East Pride who wanted to know if they would use the event as a fundraiser to support their work. Since then, The Jam has raised money for MS, AIDS, The Humane Society and individuals in need. The Jam is a great place to meet people, have a good time, and most of all, raise money for a good cause.

This year's festivities were held on July 9 during a 13-hour event featuring artists Jess Pironis, Someone's Sister (pictured), Annette Warner and Kristin.

The benefactor of this year's proceeds is the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation in memory of Dr. Mary Beth Foil.

For more information, visit www.ncwomensjamfest.com.

Check it out!

WILMINGTON — Going to the grocery store can benefit the LGBT community. Those who wish to register their Food Lion MVP card so that OutWilmington will receive monetary benefit by the use of the card are encouraged to do so. Every little contribution helps and it doesn't cost comsumers anything. Register by going to www.outwilmington.com. Go to the Food Lion and MVP article and take it from there. Online registration takes just a couple of minutes.

Coming out is hard to do

CHARLOTTE — A free group for women who are coping with the struggles of coming out to themselves and to family, friends and co-workers will take place at the Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1401 Central Ave., from 7-8:30 p.m., the first Thursday of each month.

The group provides a safe, confidential setting to discuss the many difficulties and benefits that exist with the coming out process. It is facilitated by Dori Luke, MSW, LCSW.

For more information, call Dori at 704-576-3635 or The Center at 704-333-0144.

info: Announce your community news items in NC News Notes. Email: editor@q-notes.com or fax 704-531-1361.

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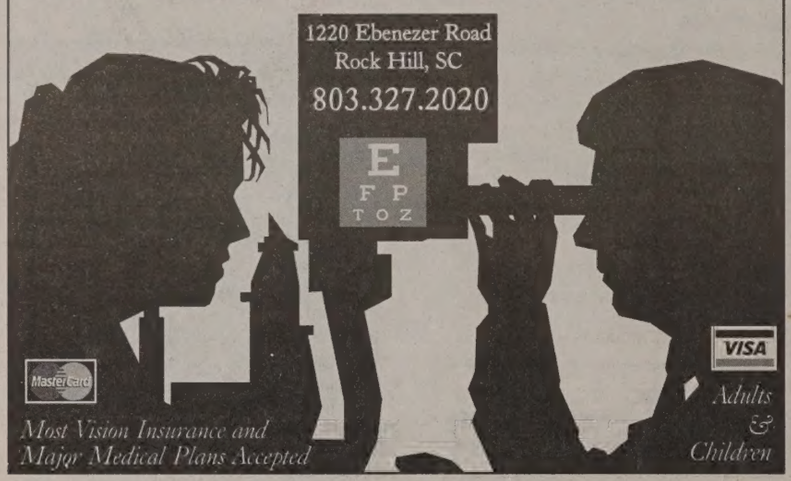

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News notes: sc
from the palmetto state

by Ed Madden

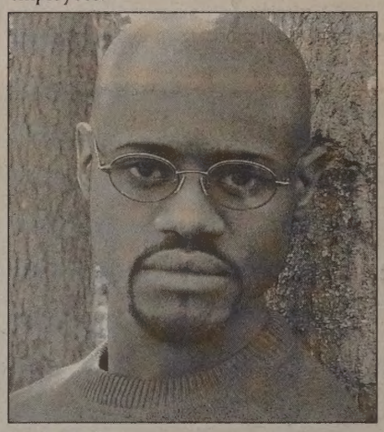
LGLA Harbor cruise scheduled for July 23

CHARLESTON — The Lowcountry Gay and Lesbian Alliance will hold a harbor cruise on Saturday, July 23, in Charleston. The cruise will begin at 8 p.m., with boarding at 7:30. This event is free for members of LGLA. For more information about the cruise and for ticket prices, visit www.lgla.org or call 843-720-8088.

The State reports on gay groups honoring women who stood up for Kevin Dunbar

COLUMBIA — *The State* newspaper ran an article July 6 about South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement (SCGLPM) and Lambda Legal's decision to honor the three Columbia women who gave testimony in the court case *Dunbar v. Foot Locker*.

Q-Notes covered the story last year when Kevin Dunbar sued Foot Locker after the company fired him and had allowed him to be subjected to anti-gay harassment by coworkers and supervisors. Dunbar and Footlocker eventually reached a settlement, which included financial restitution and sensitivity training for employees.



Kevin Dunbar

According to *The State*, Maria Williams gave Dunbar her name and phone number when she saw him being harassed.

"As a Christian woman, I felt this was wrong, and the Lord told me to help and heal because the hurt, pain and embarrassment I saw on Mr. Dunbar's face was intense," Williams said.

Elizabeth Johnson approached Dunbar's manager and told him she had received excellent service. She also wrote a letter commending Dunbar on his service.

The third woman, Mioyoshi L. Brennan, was concerned for Dunbar's physical and emotional state and asked the manager of Foot Locker to apologize to Dunbar. "I feel like no one should be humiliated the way he was in a job he was working to make a living," she said.

Southern Poverty Law Center addresses AFFA

CHARLESTON— On July 12, AFFA's regular program meeting featured Jennifer Hollady of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The SPLC is internationally known for its tolerance education programs and its legal victories against hate groups. Jennifer Holladay, the SPLC director of strategic affairs, has directed the center's award-winning "Teaching Tolerance" program for educators. A S.C. native and a graduate of Ashley Hall School in Charleston, Jennifer brings a passion and understanding of GLBT issues to an extraordinary organization. For more information about the Teaching Tolerance program, go to www.tolerance.org.

The Southern Poverty Law Center's Jennifer Holladay addressed AFFA's regular program meeting July 12.

Library receives regularly updated periodicals

COLUMBIA — The Harriet Hancock Center receives regular bulk subscriptions of several gay and lesbian periodicals. These periodicals are available free of charge to Center visitors and supporters. The Center urges you to pick up your copies of the regional newspapers: *Q-Notes* (N.C. & S.C.) , *Out in Asheville* (Asheville), *Front Page* (Raleigh),

see next page >

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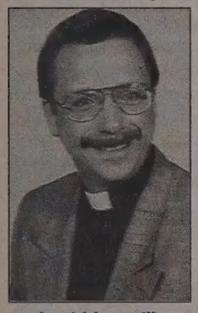
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm / Choir Practice: 4:45 pm

and *Southern Voice* (Atlanta). We also recently received copies of the most recent Lambda Update, *Gay Parent* magazine (July-Aug 2005), and the *International Pride* magazine (which includes information about Prides around the world, including S.C. Pride).

If you would like a copy of *InterPride*, *Gay Parent* or *Lambda Update*, email SCPrideCenter@aol.com and the Center will provide the requestor one by mail. The Center's hours are Sundays, 1-6 p.m. and some weekday evenings.

Workshop to explore aspects of LGBT spirituality

COLUMBIA — On Monday, July 18, 7-9 p.m., the Harriet Hancock Center will host a workshop on approaches to God and God's word that speaks directly to the experiences of queer people. Are there passages in the Bible that are especially relevant to the LGBT community? How do we understand the negative aspects while finding solace in the positive? How do we approach God as revealed in the Bible and elsewhere? How might God be speaking especially to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people? "A Biblical Buffet: A Sampling for Queer Spirits," will offer a discussion of these and related questions. The event will be hosted by Rev. Andy Sidden of the Metropolitan Community Church of Columbia.



Andy Sidden will host 'A Biblical Buffet: A Sampling for Queer Spirits' July 18 at the Harriet Hancock Center.

Update on Guild's new resource directory

COLUMBIA — At the June 9 meeting of the S.C. Gay and Lesbian Business Guild, incoming board member Pat Patterson announced that the Guild will be revising its resource directory and releasing a new 2005-2006 edition, which will feature businesses and organizations reaching out to the LGBT community. The directory is distributed to all members and throughout the LGBT community, and the Center includes the directory in welcome letters it sends to new residents moving to South Carolina or the Midlands area. Those who would like to advertise in the directory, contact the Guild at info@scglbg.org or call 803-771-0411.

▼ ▼ ▼

South Carolina LGBT Resource Guide

AIDS/HIV

- Camp For Kids
  www.campforkids.org
- Lowcountry AIDS Services
  www.aids-services.com

Religious

- Lutherans Concerned/South Carolina Chapter
  www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/7914
- MCC Charleston
  www.mccharleston.org
- MCC Columbia
  www.mcccolumbiasc.org
- MCC of the Upstate
  www.mccgreenvillesc.com
- Online Magazine for LGBT Christians
  www.whosoever.org
- SoulForce
  www.soulforce.org
- Unitarian Univeralist Fellowship of Columbia
  www.chaliceweb.org/uufc

Support For LGBT Families

- PFLAG Columbia
  www.pflagcolumbiasc.org
- PFLAG Upstate
  www.pflagupstatesc.org

SC South Carolina Equality Coalition

Youth and Students

- AFFIRM — Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth in the South Carolina Upstate
  www.affirmyouth.org
- Citadel GALA — Citadel Gay and Lesbian Alliance
  groups.yahoo.com/group/citadelgala
- Clemson University
  people.clemson.edu/~cgsa
- National Youth Advocacy Coalition
  www.nyacyouth.org
- OutSmart in the Midlands — Support for GLBT youth in the South Carolina Midlands
  www.outsmart.org
- PRIDE (People Respecting Individual Diversity and Equality)
  ww2.coastal.edu/pride
- University of South Carolina GLBT Students - BGLA
  web.sa.sc.edu/bgla
- We Are Family, Charleston
  www.waf.org

Regional, Social, and Business Organizations

- Alliance for Full Acceptance
  www.affa-sc.org

CSRA RAINBOW ALLIANCE

- CSRA Rainbow Alliance
  www.csrarainbowalliance.org
- Lowcountry Gay & Lesbian Alliance
  www.lgla.org
- The South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Business Guild
  www.scglbg.org
- The Marching Pride of SC
  www.marchingpridesc.org

South Carolina Progressive Network

info: Announce your community news items in SC News Notes. Email: editor@q-notes.com or fax 704-531-1361.

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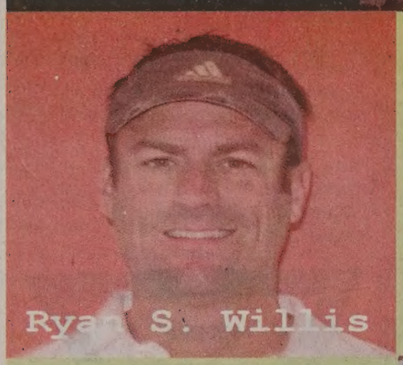

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Survey reveals gay and straight financial decisions may differ

Interactive report suggests gays more likely to reinvest assets

by Nancy Wong

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — According to a recent nationwide online survey, gay, lesbian and bisexual adults may differ from heterosexuals when considering their personal financial needs — especially decisions on investing, spending and working with financial institutions.

For example, when U.S. adults are asked how they likely would use some or part of $100,000 they earned due to investing, approximately 82 percent of gays and 73 percent of heterosexuals say they would reinvest the money into tax-free accounts.

Similarly, 80 percent of gays say they would reinvest the $100,000 in checking, savings or money market accounts (vs. 68 percent of non-gays). Not surprisingly, given the higher incidence of children in non-gay households, heterosexual adults (68 percent) are more likely than gays (24 percent) to say that they would put money aside for children or grandchildren.

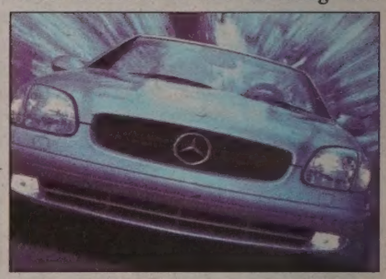
In addition, if reaping windfall earnings such as $100,000, over half of gay respondents (55 percent) say they would be somewhat or very likely to treat themselves to "a luxury item" such as jewelry, clothes or a car, compared to 44 percent of heterosexual adults.

The new survey also asked both gay and non-gay respondents whether they agree or disagree with a number of statements about their financial health and the financial institutions that serve them. Trusting and welcoming institutions remain a far higher priority to LGBT adults than to non-gay respondents. Seventy-one percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual adults and 59 percent of non-gay respondents say, "It is important to me to know that a financial institution does not discriminate."

Only 30 percent of gays also say they "trust financial institutions to respect customers like me" (as opposed to 36 percent of non-gays). Furthermore, 34 percent of gay and lesbian respondents say they are dissatisfied with the assistance provided by their financial institutions (as opposed to 24 percent of non-gays).

Perhaps underscoring how gays believe trust plays a role in choosing a financial vendor, if there is little difference on price, quality and function of a product or a service, 48 percent of gays would prefer to bundle their financial services and products with one financial institution or broker/representative while 25 percent of gays say they prefer different financial institutions for each financial product (such as insurance, investing, general banking, etc.)

"Managing, protecting and growing financial assets are important to everyone. It is growing clearer however that gays and lesbians share these concerns but have different attitudes toward investing and toward forming trusted relationships with financial institutions," said Jake Stafford, senior communications strategist at Witeck-Combs Communications. "These data provide many insights financial institutions may use to successfully reach out to their current and prospective gay customers in a direct manner that meets their needs as individuals and families."



Over half of gay respondents say they're more likely to but luxury items like jewelry, clothes or a car — compared to 44 percent of heterosexual survey participants.

The data contained in this article comes from a nationwide survey of 2,322 U.S. adults, of whom seven percent (158) identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. The survey was conducted online May 4-10, by Harris Interactive in conjunction with Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc.

info:
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ABC shelves 'Welcome to the Neighborhood'

Show included disparaging remarks about gay couple

by D. Romine

LOS ANGELES, Calif — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) expressed mixed emotions about ABC's decision to shelve indefinitely its six-part reality series "Welcome to the Neighborhood," noting that behind the problematic concept lay an admirable intention to promote diversity, understanding and acceptance.

"Welcome to the Neighborhood" depicted seven diverse families — including African-American, Korean-American, Latino and gay families — competing to win a house in an upscale Austin, Texas, cul-de-sac. Each week, one family would be voted off the show by the three resident families, who early on expressed their biases toward the contestants.

"It's clear, having seen the entire series, that the producers intended to send a powerful message about the value of diversity and embracing the differences of others," said GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Damon Romine. "Yet while the spirit of the show was admirable, the episodic nature of the series created serious issues in terms of depicting the neighbors' journey from intolerance to acceptance."

GLAAD was alerted to the show on June 16. After watching the first two hours the organization expressed its concerns about those initial episodes to ABC executives.

"In terms of structure, if viewers only watched the first episode or two, they could come away with a message that prejudice and discrimination are not that big a deal — which is the exact opposite of what the producers intended," Romine said. "Regardless of how things turn out at the end of the last show, it's dangerous to let intolerance and bigotry go unchallenged for weeks at a time."

Steve and John Wright with their adopted son.

"Why should people of color and others ... be humiliated and degraded to teach white people not to be bigots?" said Shanna Smith, president of the National Fair Housing Alliance. "That's not good for race relations in America."

Within the first two episodes, one man made a crack about the number of children piling out of the Hispanic family's car. The citizenry of the business-owning Asian family was questioned and displays of affection between the gay men were met with disgust.

Anger about the series even united GLAAD (which found it "really disturbing" to watch privileged couples vote out families they don't like) with the Family Research Council (which worried that conservative Christians would appear like overly judgmental buffoons).

On June 27, GLAAD met with ABC representatives and viewed the remainder of the series. While still expressing concerns about the structure of the show, Romine noted that the intent of the producers became clear as the series progressed. At that time, ABC acknowledged the challenges surrounding the first two episodes and said they were exploring ways to repackage them before the series was set to debut on July 10. On June 29, the network publicly acknowledged those concerns and announced that it was shelving the series indefinitely.

"We hope audiences will eventually get to see the transformation of these families without being stranded amid the intolerance that defines the opening hours of the series," Romine said. "By the final episode, the homeowners have come to the end of an incredibly moving journey toward understanding and acceptance — and it's a journey we hope that one day viewers will be able to take with them."

"The producers' stated intentions for the show are admirable, but in the end a show must be judged on what the viewers actually see. An effort to promote tolerance that requires the rejection of five families in order to transform the attitudes of the homeowners seems unnecessarily cruel and insensitive, given the circumstances families like these encounter in real life," Romine said. "We hope ABC finds another approach to advance the cause of understanding that doesn't send mixed messages by using exclusion to make a point about inclusion."

Regarding the gay couple, Steve and John Wright, and their adopted son, Romine had this say: "The Wrights brought a remarkable level of dignity and integrity to the show. The intolerance they experienced on this show mirrors the daily reality experienced by millions of gays and lesbians across the country. The Wrights' unshakable commitment to one another, to their values and to their family makes them the kinds of role models that all Americans — gay and straight — need to see more of."

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Para todos

España aprueba ley de matrimonio homosexual

El Congreso Español aprobó la ley de matrimonio homosexual dando plena igualdad a las parejas homosexuales y heterosexuales. También se permitirá que los hijos de una madre lesbiana puedan

ser adoptados, desde el primer momento. Los niños nacidos en una relación lesbiana podrán ser adoptados, por la pareja de la madre biológica.

La decisión controversial derrotó un rechazo legislativo hecho unos días atrás. La ley tomará efecto en un mes, haciendo que España sea el tercer país Europeo, detrás de Holanda y Bélgica, que permita las bodas de personas del mismo sexo.

La mayoría de los españoles están de acuerdo con la nueva ley a pesar de una marcha, dos semanas antes, en la cual miles protestaron en contra de la legislación. Un grupo Católico ha presentado a los miembros del Congreso con una petición firmada por 600,000 persona que se oponen a la nueva ley y piden un referéndum.

Aunque la iglesia Católica tiene gran influencia en España y opone energéticamente tal ley, desde el bombardeo en Marzo, 2004 el pueblo español desea más unidad entre sí. El voto fué 187 a favor, 147 en contra y 4 ausencias.

La legislación es una de una serie de reformas sociales que el gobierno socialista ha introducido recientemente, incluyendo un proceso de divorcio más rápido. El presidente del Gobierno, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero declaró ante el Congreso que España es ahora "un país más decente, porque una sociedad decente es aquella que no humilla a sus miembros".

El concejal del Ayuntamiento de Madrid y secretario de Movimientos Sociales, Pedro Zerolo, férreo defensor de los derechos del colectivo gay, declaró que "nunca antes una reforma legal tan pequeña ha supuesto un paso social tan grande. Hoy es un gran día para gays, para lesbianas, para transexuales, bisexuales y para todos los heterosexuales. Hoy ganamos todos y todas; hoy acabamos con una intolerable discriminación de siglos."

Más de 5,000 parejas homosexuales en España anunciaron que están preparadas para casarse.

Canada aprovo matrimonio homosexual en toda la nacion

El parlamento canadiense aprobó el 5 de Julio la ley que regula los matrimonios

homosexuales en todo el país. Apoyado por la mayoría de los miembros del partido Liberal, el bloque Québecois y el NDP, la legislación pasó fácilmente, haciendo Canadá el cuarto país en el mundo, detrás de Holanda, Bélgica y España, que reconozca oficialmente el matrimonio del mismo sexo. Las bodas gays eran legales desde hace dos años en ocho de las diez provincias del país, pero la falta de una norma nacional violaba los derechos constitucionales.

El primer ministro, el liberal Paul Martin dijo, "este es un país de minorías, y no podemos defender unos derechos s¡ y otros no.".

El partido conservador insiste que a pesar del voto el debate no terminará para aquellos canadienses que creen que el matrimonio debe de ser definido como una unión exclusiva entre un hombre y una mujer. El líder conservador Stephen Harper dijo que la nueva ley será evaluada si su partido controla el próximo gobierno. Harper hizo esa promesa después de sugerir que la nueva ley no es legítima porque representantes del partido separatista de la provincia de Québec votaron. También dijo que un gobierno conservador dejará que haya un voto libre de todos los legisladores en vez de forzar a los ministros a votar de acuerdo con el gobierno.

Dudas oscurecen la muerte de Luther Vandross

El magnifico cantante Luther Vandross falleció el 1 de Julio a la edad de 54 años. En Abril del 2003 Vandross había sufrido una embolia de la cual nunca se pudo recuperar completamente. El cantante también sufría de diabetes y sobre peso que tendía ha fluctuar.

Personas cercanas al cantante dicen que Vandross no tenía que morir, dijo su gerente Carmen Romano, quien había tratado de mantener a Vandross bajo cuidado médico. La madre y hermana del famoso baladista se oponían a los esfuerzos de Romano. Ellas no mantenían las citas con los doctores y no le prestaban la atención necesaria para su recuperación. "Era una batalla constante para que hicieran lo necesario por el".

Vandross estaba en una sesión de terapia física cuando murió. "Lo estaba caminando cuando se desplomó", dijo una persona no identificada.

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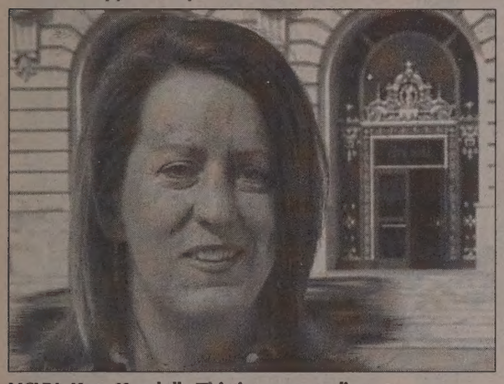
CA Supreme Court upholds DP law

HRC and NCLR applaud victory for same-sex couples in California

by Shannon Minter

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — On June 29 the California Supreme Court let stand the Court of Appeal's April 4, 2005, decision upholding the validity of *AB 205*, the comprehensive domestic partnership law enacted by the California Legislature in 2003. The Court held that domestic partnership is not marriage, and that the voters did not intend to prohibit the Legislature from extending legal protections to domestic partners when they enacted *Proposition 22* in 2000, which prohibits California from recognizing marriages of same-sex couples from other states.



NCLR's Kate Kendall: 'This is a resounding victory for fairness and equality.'

"This is a resounding victory for fairness and equality," said Kate Kendell, National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) executive director. "Domestic partnership is not marriage, and the Court soundly rejected the tortured efforts of extreme right-wing groups to distort the language of *Proposition 22* to strike down validly enacted legislation protecting lesbian and gay people and their families. The voters in this state overwhelmingly support providing equal rights and benefits to same-sex couples. The notion that *AB 205* violates the will of the people in this state is absurd, and the California Supreme Court rightly rejected it."

"The California Supreme Court ruling ensures that all families are protected under state law," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The law the Court upheld is an important step toward equal rights and responsibilities for gay families in California. The ruling ensures California same-sex couples and their families with many of the fundamental securities that most Americans have. We're pleased the Court is allowing this step toward equality to stand."

Since it went into effect on January 1, 2005, *AB 205* has provided registered domestic partners in California with many basic protections and responsibilities including: community property, mutual responsibility for debt, parenting rights and obligations such as custody and support, and the ability to claim a partner's body after death. The law does not allow for joint tax filing and certain other protections under state law, and does not provide access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

"[This] ruling is another victory for the tens of thousands of same-sex couples in California who now have the assurance their families will have the protections provided by this widely supported law," said Courtney Joslin, staff attorney for NCLR.

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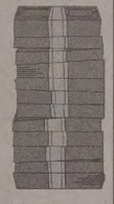

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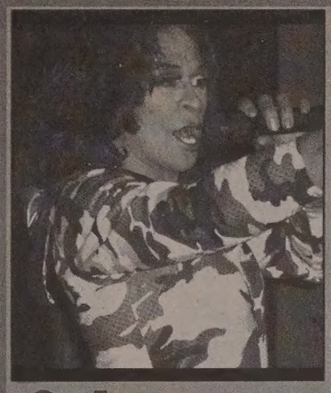

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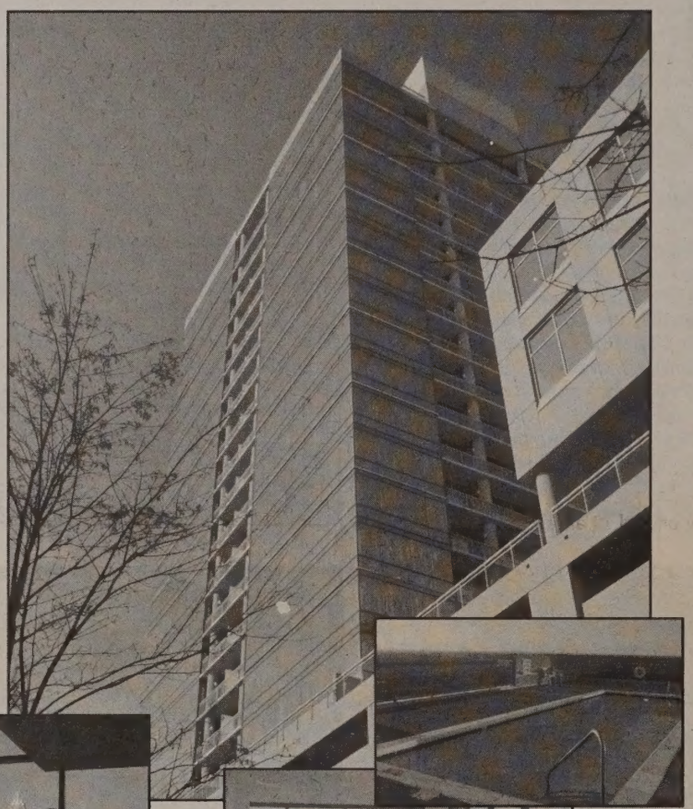

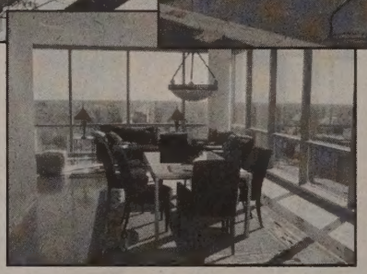

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LOGO now on DirecTV

Queer programming line-up on channel 263

by David Bitler

NEW YORK, NY — MTV Networks and DirecTV, Inc. announced on June 30 that LOGO had been added to the DIRECTV programming line-up, on channel 263. DIRECTV now offers LOGO in its Total Choice Plus and Total Choice Premier monthly subscription packages.

"We're completely thrilled to partner with DirecTV as they add LOGO to the mix of quality programming services available to their customers," said Nicole Browning, president of Affiliate Sales and Marketing at MTV. "MTV Networks is committed to providing programming to niche audiences, and LOGO is yet another example of the innovative spirit behind all of our strong brands that have a special and unique connection to the audiences they serve."

"DirecTV understands our creative vision for LOGO and the value of the gay and lesbian audience," said Brian Graden, president of LOGO. "This partnership gives LOGO its first national distribution platform and allows virtually everyone in our community across the country long-awaited access to the channel."

"We strive to provide a diverse array of quality programming for our customers," said Dan Fawcett, executive vice president of programming acquisition for DirecTV, Inc. "LOGO is unique and it's clear that MTVN has developed yet another compelling network that is certain to resonate with its target audience."

LOGO will be an authentic voice for the LGBT community, providing its audience with a place they can see themselves and be themselves. With more than one thousand hours of original and acquired programming content, LOGO offers a mix of critically acclaimed and award-winning feature films, quality original series, specials, news, comedy shows, concerts and insightful documentaries.

LOGO has assembled a library of more than 200 movie titles, from the majors to the independents, including HBO's Emmy Award-winning "Angels in America," "Mulholland Drive," "Kissing Jessica Stein," "High Art," "Philadelphia," "Latter Days," "Far from Heaven," "A Home at the End of the World," "Six Degrees of Separation," "Chuck and Buck" and "Fried Green Tomatoes."

LOGO also will present the first-ever telecast of the GLAAD Media Awards, featuring Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Marcia Cross, Felicity Huffman, Margaret Cho, Liza Minnelli and John Stamos, among others.

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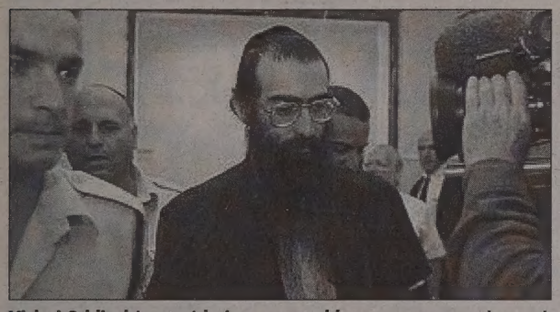
Attempted murder charges filed against Haredi Jew in Jerusalem Pride attack

JERUSALEM, Israel — An ultra-Orthodox man suspected of stabbing three people during Jerusalem's gay Pride parade says he acted in God's name.

"I came to murder on behalf of God. We can't have such abomination in the country," Yishai Shlisel reportedly said during his interrogation.



Yishai Schlisel (center) being escorted by police to a hearing in Jerusalem.

On July 5 Shlisel was indicted on three counts of attempted murder at the Jerusalem District Court.

According to the indictment, Shlisel purchased an 18-centimeter knife in preparation for the attack. During the parade, he stabbed three people, two 18-year-olds and one 50-year-old man.

One victim sustained moderate wounds in the attack while the other two suffered light injuries.

Thousands of participants took part in the parade, after the court ordered Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski to allow the event to go ahead, despite his staunch objection.

Violence ensued after about 100 ultra-Orthodox youngsters attempted to break through the police escort while yelling out "gay is shame." Police officers attempted to disperse the crowd, but one man managed to break through and stabbed the three participants.

Metropolitan Community Church Founder Rev. Troy Perry responded to the stabbings in a press release dated July 5:

"This violent incident is yet another reminder that homophobia in our world is often motivated by religious intolerance and religious fundamentalism," said Perry.

According to Perry, Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious fundamentalists both in Israel and the U.S. have carried out an unrelenting months-long campaign to vilify and demonize gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

"They have attempted to impose their narrow religious views at the expense of the basic human rights of LGBT people," Perry offered. "I am deeply saddened that anti-gay religious leaders have twisted a positive spiritual message of love for God's diverse creation into a hate-filled message far removed from the deep, genuine spirituality of faith, hope and love for all of God's creation."

Perry ended his statement with a call upon all faith communities to reject negative spirituality that demonizes those who are different and that invariably leads to division and pain, and to redouble prayers for an end to homophobia in the world.

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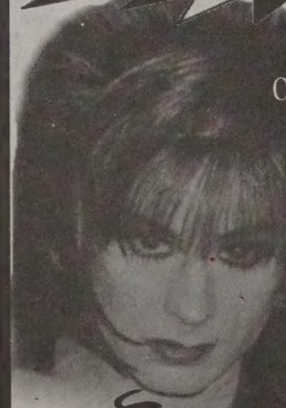

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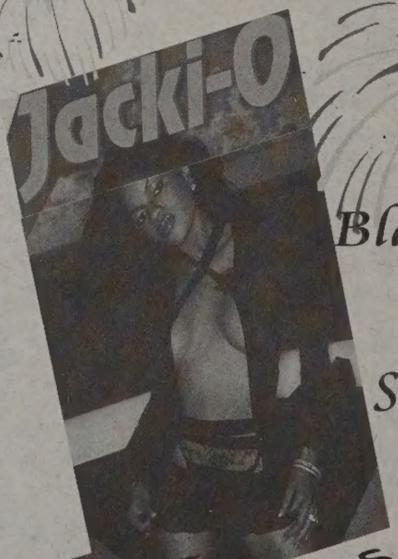

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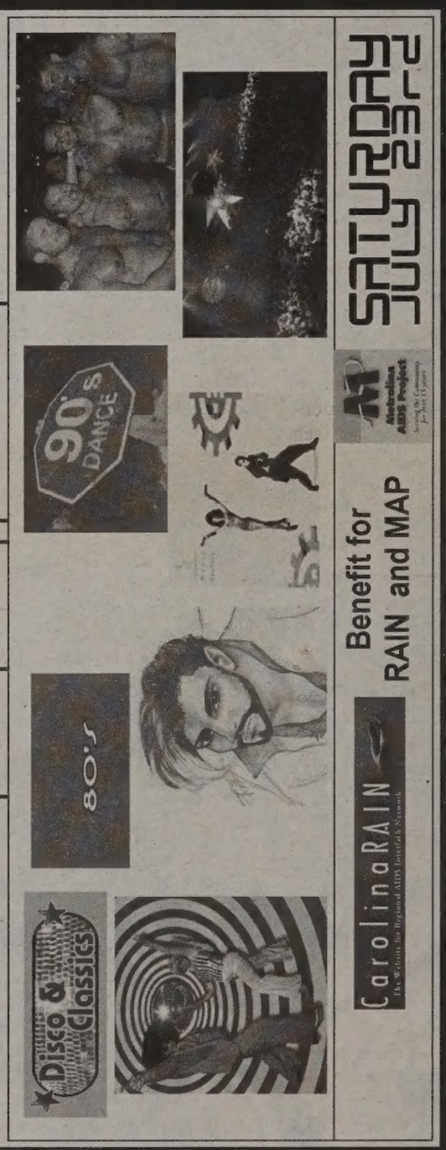

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OpusComm's latest LGBT online survey

Last year's survey validated the community's dollar capability

by Mark Smith

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — One lifestyle to live? The lifestyle of the party? Those phrases don't have much of a ring to them. So it's understandable why gay people chuckle over the saying: Why is it that straight people have lives, and we have lifestyles?

What straight Americans and corporate America need is some information about those lives.

That's the goal of the Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, an annual online survey that collects responses from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people. The survey, now in its fifth year, is a joint venture between OpusComm Group and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. Last year the survey had approximately 8,000 respondents. This year's version of the survey runs from July 11 to Aug. 22 and invites all members of the LGBT community to log onto www.glcensus.org and to "Stand Up And Be Counted" in the largest annual study of the gay community and their consumer behavior.

Survey responses help paint a clearer picture of LGBT people — their relationships, their families, their politics and their consumer and media habits.

"Information of this kind can go a long way in helping straight America understand the issues of LGBT people," said Jeffrey Garber, president of OpusComm Group. "And it helps businesses target the LGBT consumer."

The visibility marketing affords is crucial in fostering more understanding between gay Americans and straight Americans, said Amy Falkner of Syracuse University and lead researcher for the survey.

"When businesses find out what LGBT people look for in their purchases, and feel comfortable about publicly portraying gay people in their advertisements, it puts a face on a segment of the population that is underrepresented and not always understood," Falkner said. "Our survey is long — it takes nearly 45 minutes to complete, so we know that our respondents are dedicated to this cause. They have told us so."

Hundreds of the emails received by G/L Census last year from respondents had to do with praise, thanks and encouragement to continue to survey the consumer behaviors of the GLBT community.

Here are just a few of the comments:

"Thank you for giving me and my partner a space to voice our opinions and shopping habits. Today, it feels like I've done something that might help us and our case/cause. In turn, I've done something to help myself. Thanks!"

"Great Survey, glad SOMEONE is taking the time to ask how *we* feel!"

"I think this census is awesome! I find the information quite relevant to the GLBT community. Thank you so much for remembering to count our opinions in your research!"

"Thanks for a questionnaire that asked specific questions for GLBT folks just like us! What a neat feeling! Thanks for tallying and listening."

"Thanks for taking the time to investigate our habits. This is a great way to get the attention of businesses."

"I do believe in the power of the dollar, and I believe this information is step in convincing the world we are force to be recognized."

Each year G/L Census Partners receives over 1,000 comments about the survey from participants. These comments stay anonymous; they are not affiliated with the respondent's email address. E-mail addresses are stripped from the collected data before it reaches the research team. G/L Census Partners does not sell the list or publish it in any way. It asks people for their email address only if they wish to see a topline summary of the survey results in the fall. This is unusual, but Garber and Falkner think it's very important respondents get this kind of feedback, especially since they've taken the time to participate.

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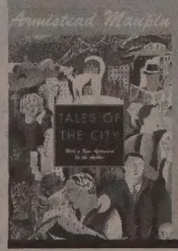

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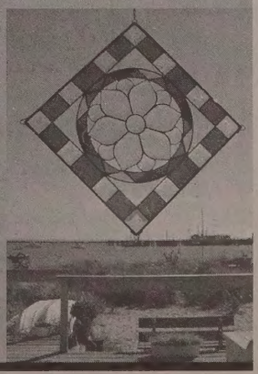

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Simmons announces LGBT study

Global gay media leader PlanetOut, Inc. becomes charter subscriber

by Dave Aneckstein

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — Perhaps the most respected authority on the behavior of the American consumer, Simmons Market Research, announced June 20 that it has launched the Gay and Lesbian Consumer Study, the most comprehensive study available of the LGBT population in the United States. This syndicated study contains over 40,000 variables offering unique insights into the consumer attitudes and behaviors of the LGBT population segment relative to the general market. Results of the first Simmons Gay and Lesbian Consumer Study will be released on Sept. 30.

The LGBT population, with an estimated annual buying power of over 600 billion dollars, is drawing increasing attention from advertisers and marketers. "Until now, there has not been a gay consumer study that is endorsed and trusted by top agencies, national advertisers and gay media properties," noted Chris Wilson, president and COO of Simmons Market Research. "The new Simmons study meets the demand for a high-quality measurement of the LGBT population."

Upon hearing about this groundbreaking study, PlanetOut Inc., a leading global online media company offering consumer services and news and entertainment to the gay community, inked a charter subscription with Simmons. PlanetOut works with advertisers to develop branded entertainment and interactive advertising programs to reach its growing base of more than five million monthly visitors on Gay.com, PlanetOut.com and Kleptomaniac.com.

"More and more advertisers are interested in building affinity with the gay and lesbian market, but they've lacked a definitive source on gay purchasing behavior relative to the general population," said Mark Elderkin, president of PlanetOut Inc. "As the world's largest network for the LGBT community, we are interested in being able to offer our advertisers not only access, but statistically-valid insights into this attractive demographic."

On July 5 Simmons announced some of the technology and internet results thus far in the study.

"The results of this landmark Simmons study show that the LGBT community likes to stay ahead of the game when it comes to technology and the internet," said Bill Engel, co-CEO of Simmons Market Research. "The LGBT community has a strong appreciation for emerging technologies, they seek out the latest consumer electronic trends, and are heavy users of the internet."

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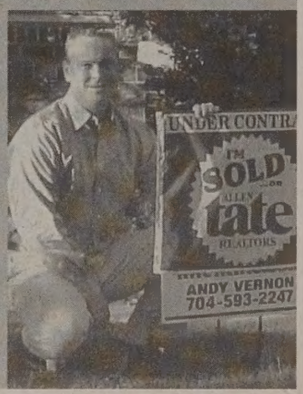

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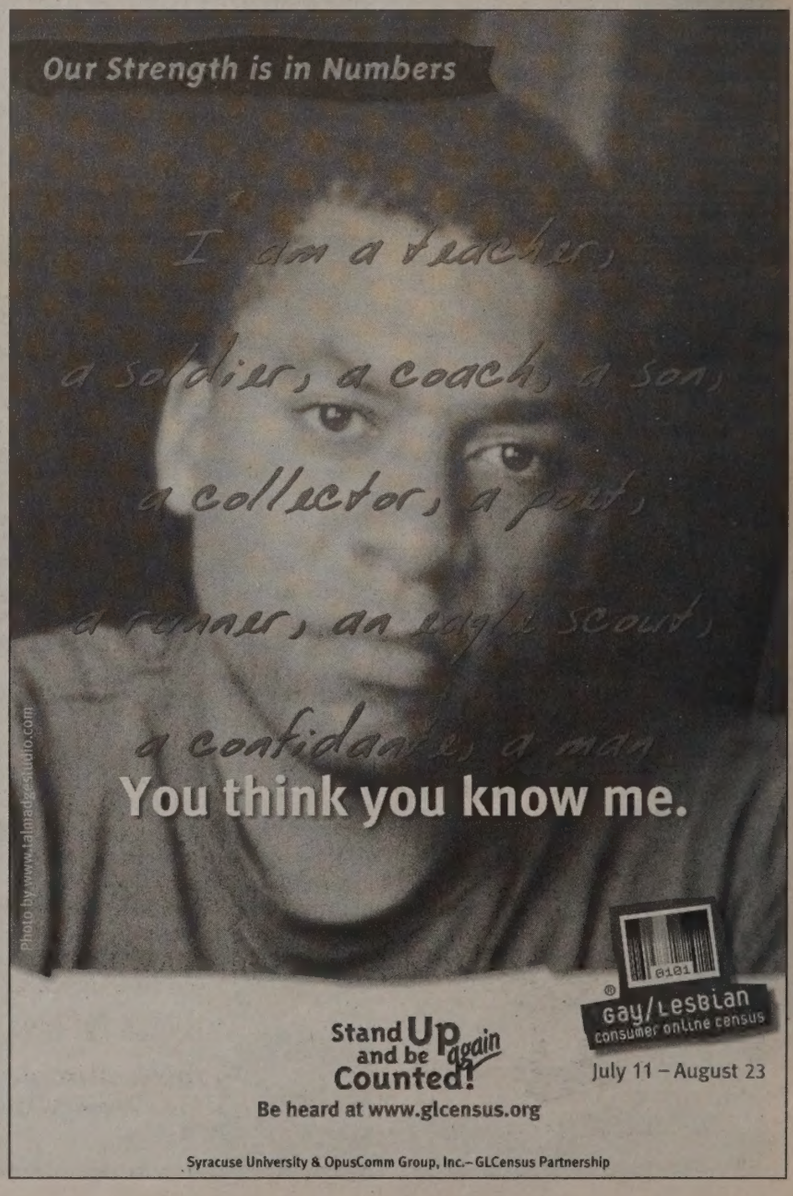
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anything but straight

Twelve show ideas for LOGO, the new gay cable network

by Wayne Besen

I am very excited about the June 30 launch of LOGO, the MTV-sponsored all-gay cable network that will initially be available in 10 million homes. For the first time, a corporate giant, Viacom, has put the money and muscle into making a gay cable channel work.

This is also a big risk for the GLBT community. If the network tanks, other corporations will be afraid to invest money into gay programming. Therefore, I propose that LOGO play it safe and initially stick to mimicking successful mainstream television shows, but with a lavender twist. Here are10 shows that would be a safe bet to succeed:

"The White Party CSI"

Forensics experts investigate and track down an evil drug dealer who sold a lethal combination of poppers and Viagra at a Miami circuit party.

"Metro Guy For the Queer Pig Sty"

This show is dedicated to all the beer guzzling, plaid-shirt wearing, fat, pale gay men who think Universal Gear is a shop that fixes tractors. In this stereotype-breaking show, a gang of five straight Metrosexuals enters a Bear's house and teaches him how to properly shine his leather thong and trim his back hair.

"Survivor"

In this highly anticipated show, 10 "ex-gays" will be airlifted and placed on an island stocked with sex addicted A&F Models. Each time an ex-gay breaks down and sodomizes, he is booted off the island. This show should have extraordinary ratings, but there is a reasonable fear that none of the ex-gays will make it to the second episode.

"The Practicing Homosexual"

A knock-off of "The Practice", this follows the legal travails of closeted Spokane Mayor Jim West and closeted right wing talk show host Armstrong Williams, as they try to fend off allegations of gay sexual harassment and abuse.

"American Idol"

Scratch this idea. After Clay Aiken, there is no way LOGO can make this show any gayer.

"Larry Kramer Live"

This is the perfect antidote for those tired of Larry King's passive questioning style. ACT-UP founder Larry Kramer will always get the most out of his guests with his probing questions. Here is an excerpt from the pilot: "Answer the question, asshole!! You're Killing Us!!! KILLING US!!!! One more word and I'll have 50 ugly, bald queens in combat boots picketing on the Goddamned manicured lawn of your insipid suburban Connecticut shit hole of a house."

"The Fake World"

Five young, hot men share a brownstone in Chelsea and talk about botox, boys and Britney Spears. Watch them prattle about Tina and Connie, while admiring how steroids have ballooned their calves!

"The Apprentice"

A host of aspiring young drag queens perform in a cutthroat competition to win over a powerful Drag Momma. When a contestant loses, Drag Momma snaps her fingers, rips off the losers wig, and says, "Miss Thang, you are so fired."

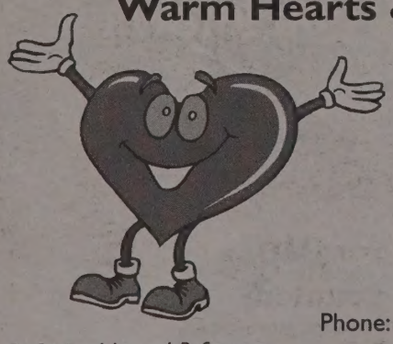
"The West Hollywood Hillbillies"

In this show, a gay hillbilly wins big in a drunken night of riverboat gambling and moves to West Hollywood in a doomed effort to make the A-List.

"Out That Cartoon"

This is a spin-off of '70s hit, "Name That Tune". In this show, Jerry Falwell, James Dobson and other religious right figures get a quick glimpse of various cartoon characters and have t10 seconds to decide if the animated figures are homosexual.

We can only hope that LOGO takes my sage advice and incorporates these themes into their programming. With such safe and milquetoast shows, how could they go wrong?



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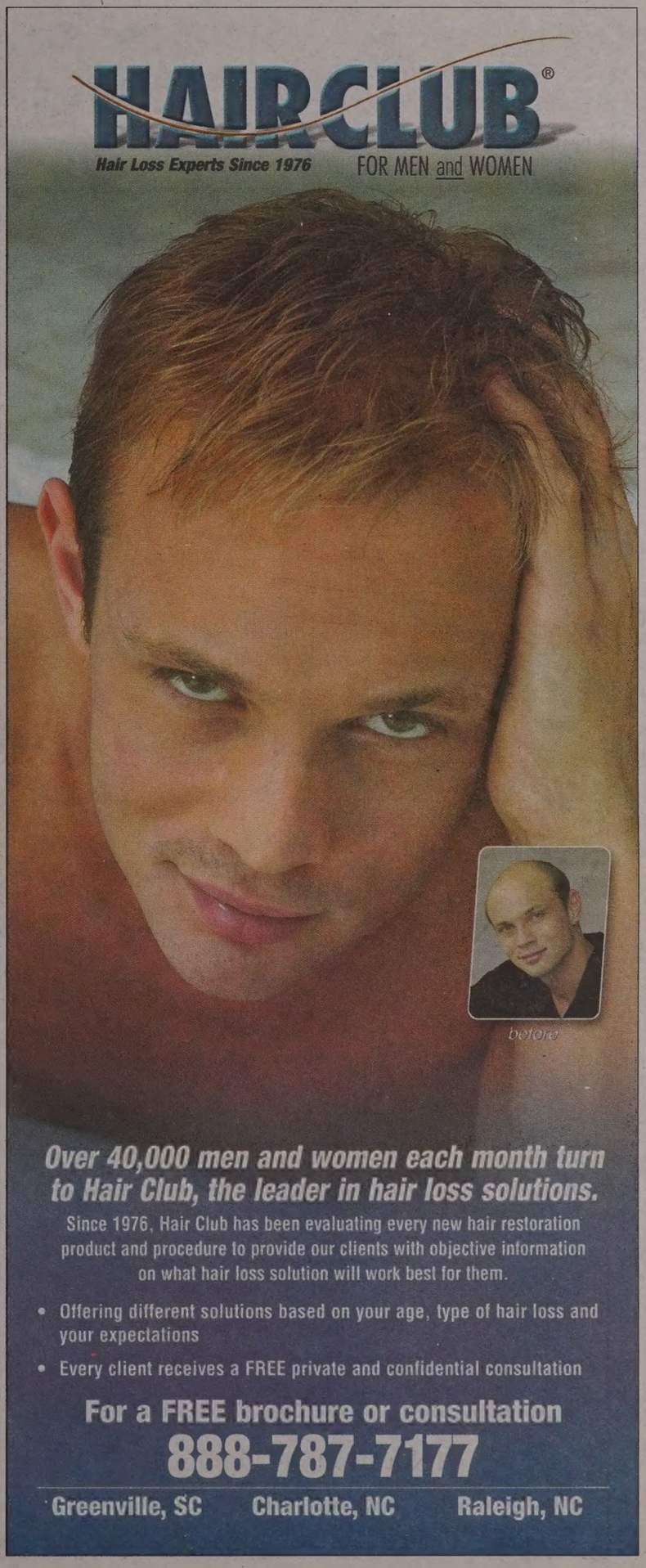
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In the wake of *Lawrence v. Texas*

The 2003 decision set off a chain reaction across the country

by Mark Smith

Tyron Garner and John Geddes Lawrence following the court ruling on June 26, 2003.

You no doubt remember the date: June 26, 2003. Gays and lesbians across the U.S. were elated as the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sodomy laws were unconstitutional. In effect, the decision rolled back the government's ability to prosecute private, consensual sex acts between individuals of the same sex.

The right wing, of course, was outraged.

At the center of the case were two men: medical technologist John Geddes Lawrence, 60, and street-stand barbecue vendor Tyron Garner, 36. The two were found having consensual anal sex in Lawrence's apartment in the suburbs of Houston between 10:30 and 11 p.m. on September 17, 1998. When Harris County sheriff's deputy Joseph Quinn entered the unlocked apartment with his weapon drawn, he arrested the two.

The arrests had stemmed from a false report of a "weapons disturbance" in their home — that because of a domestic disturbance or robbery, there was a man with a gun "going crazy." The person who filed the report, neighbor Roger David Nance, 41, had earlier been accused of harassing the plaintiffs. (Despite the false report, probable cause to enter the home was not at issue in the case; Nance later admitted that he was lying and pled no contest to charges of filing a false police report and served 15 days in jail).

Lawrence and Garner were arrested, held overnight in jail, and charged with violating Texas' anti-sodomy statute, the Texas "Homosexual Conduct" law. The law, Chapter 21, Sec. 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, designated it as a Class C misdemeanor when someone "engages in deviant sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex," apparently prohibiting anal and oral sex between members of the same sex, but not between members of the opposite sex. They later posted $200 bail.

The rest of the story is history. After numerous appeals, the U.S Supreme Court ruled in their favor, changing the lives of millions of gay men and lesbians forever. Garner and Lawrence slipped quietly back in to their private lives, and have not spoken in public regarding the case since the days following the landmark decision,

What happened in the wake of the ruling is overwhelming. For the LGBT community, there have been advances and setbacks. Those setbacks are viewed by some as a landslide backlash to the historic case.

Matthew Limon, June 27, 2003

The following day (June 27, 2003) the U.S. Supreme Court suggested that a lower court re-examine the case of Matthew Limon, a young man who has been diagnosed in the intellectual range between "borderline intellectual functioning" and "mild mental retardation." In February of 2000, Matthew and another male teenager were both students at the same co-ed residential school for developmentally disabled youth in Miami County, Kansas. A week after Matthew's 18th birthday, Matthew performed consensual oral sex on the other teenager, who was nearly 15 years old — three years, one month and

Matthew Limon faces 17 years in prison.

see TWO on 27

2005 OUTMusic Award winners

Scott Free named Outmusician of the Year

by Ed Mannix

CHICAGO — Held June 12 at the Chicago Cultural Center, this year's OUTMusic Awards was co-hosted by Broadway, comic and recording star Lea

Scott Free

DeLaria, Chicago rock personality Jinx Titanic and featured special honor presentations to guitar legend June Millington and The Village People's former cowboy, Randy Jones.

Chicago's queer-rock singer-songwriter Scott Free took top honors at the 2005 Outmusic Awards, which honored the year's best in gay and lesbian music. Free was named Outmusician of the Year and his song "Another Day of Cruelty" was named Outsong of the Year.

Dylan Rice

Another Chicago rocker — Dylan Rice — received the Outstanding Debut Recording — Male award for his album "Wandering Eyes."

California musicians also scored big at the OMAs with five awards going to Caliifornia-based artists. LA-based award-winning singer/songwriter Adrianne received the award for Outstanding New Recording — Female for her "10,000 Stones" CD.

Adrianne

The four San Francisco-based recipients include Kitty Rose — extolled by many as the "country reincarnation of singer/songwriter Katharine Chase" — who took home an Outstanding Debut Recording — Female for her "Kitty Rose Greatest Hits" CD. The queer pop band The Bobbleheads won Outstanding New Recording — Band for their pop CD "Automatic Fun," while the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus took home the Outstanding Choral award for "Closer Than Ever: The 25th Anniversary Concert." Rounding out San Francisco's roster of winners was hip-hopper and gender-bender Rocco Kaiyatos who took home the Outstanding Producer Award for Katastrophe's "Let's Fuck, Then Talk About My Problems."

Kitty Rose

Two New York City based triple-nominees also scored at the awards.

Pop vocalist Ari Gold received the Outstanding New Recording — Male award for his "Space Under Sun" CD. Award-winning singer-songwriter Rachael Sage captured the

Ari Gold

see OUTMUSIC on 35

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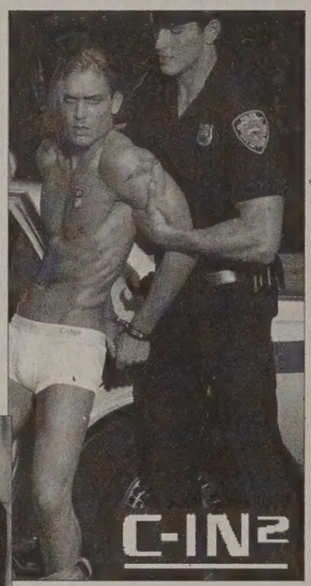

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the big screen

Trilogy Is better than its torch songs

by Steve Warren

Here's a movie about gay people, straight people and everyone in between — although being between gay people and straight people can be awkward.

"Happy Endings" is about good people and bad people, and mostly good people who occasionally do bad things, like most of us.

A forward step for queer writer-director Don Roos ("The Opposite of Sex," "Bounce"), it tells three slightly overlapping stories in a script that, like "Traffic," plays more like really good television than the really good movie it is.

Lisa Kudrow continues her "comeback" as Mamie, who got pregnant by her stepbrother Charley when she was 17. Everyone, including Charley (Steve Coogan), thinks she had an abortion but she had the child, gave him up for adoption and hasn't heard from him since.

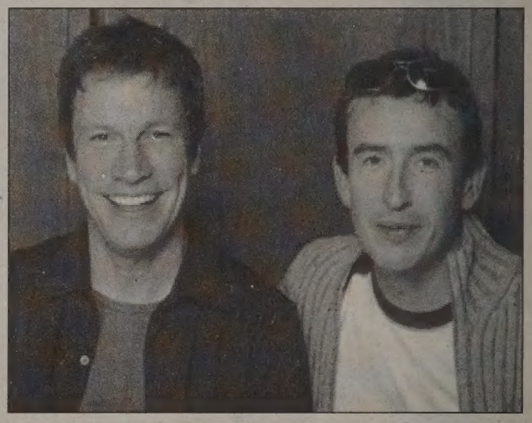
Nicky (Jesse Bradford), a sleazy wannabe filmmaker, has learned Mamie's secret and offers to put her in touch with her son if he can film their reunion. He thinks the resulting documentary will win him a scholarship to the American Film Institute. Mamie refuses but offers a substitute story about her boyfriend Javier (Bobby Cannavale) being an illegal Mexican immigrant who gives sexual massages, with "happy ending — the full release," to Beverly Hills housewives.

Frequent titles, occupying half the screen, provide exposition and sometimes too much information, like the narration in "Amélie." For instance they tell us, "Charley is gay now. Who isn't?" He and his partner Gil (David Sutcliffe) have been together five years. Their best friends are a lesbian couple, Pam (Laura Dern) and Diane (Sarah Clarke).

Gil was going to be a sperm donor for Pam but the women told him they changed their mind before becoming pregnant with Max, who is now two. Charley gets the idea that Max is really Gil's son and the women are lying to keep them out of his life. Such suspicions can lead to things that aren't good for a friendship.

The third story is about Jude (Maggie Gyllenhaal), a better slut than she is a singer. She'll sleep with anyone for a place to stay and sometimes gets thrown out of places for the same reason. Otis (Jason Ritter) invites her to sing with his band, Serpentine, while their regular singer is in rehab.

She thanks Otis in her usual way, even though he thinks he's gay ("Why don't you try it? You may not be who you think you are"), but when she gets a look at their house she sets her cap for his widowed father, Frank (Tom Arnold).



Actor Steve Coogan and Director Don Roos at the Sundance premier of 'Happy Ending.'

Until close to the final happy ending there's no physical affection between any of the gay or lesbian couples (OK, a brief porn clip from Chi Chi LaRue), although there's plenty of the heterosexual variety. Roos apparently was being overly cautious to avoid scaring off straight viewers who may have enough trouble coping with all the normal queers on display. ("The gayest thing about you is me," Charley tells Gil.)

There's even a bit of homophobia. Otis' bandmates assume he's gay but use the "rich little faggot" for his rehearsal space. "Why do you think he's a drummer?" says

see BIG on 32

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Two years after: *Lawrence v. Texas*

from page 25

a few days younger than Matthew.

Kansas has a so-called "Romeo and Juliet" law that makes the penalty for statutory rape less severe when the case involves two teenagers. That law, however, excludes gay people — so Matthew was charged with criminal sodomy and sentenced to 17 years.

Phyllis Lyon, 80, and Del Martin, 84, were San Francisco's first same-sex couple to wed.

Despite the court's recommendation, Kansas upheld his sentence in a decision on Jan. 30, 2004.

Limon is now set to be released in April of 2017, when he will be 36 years old.

Frist announces gay marriage ban, July 1, 2003

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn, said on ABC's "This Week" he feels marriage is a sacrament and should only include a union of a man and a woman. When asked if he would support the proposed amendment brought to the House of Representatives by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., Frist said, "I absolutely do, of course I do."

San Francisco gay marriage, Feb. 12, 2004

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom was only five weeks into his first term when he told his staff to begin sanctioning same-sex marriages. The first wedding, between pioneering lesbian activists Phyllis Lyon, 80, and Del Martin, 84, was performed in secret, so it could be completed without court intervention. By day's end, 87 jubilant gay and lesbian couples, many with children in tow, had promised to be "spouses for life."

After four weeks and 3,955 weddings, the California Supreme Court halted the unprecedented wedding spree. In August, the court voided all the marriages, ruling that Newsom had overstepped his authority.

Gay couples marry in New Mexico, Feb. 20, 2004

A county clerk issued marriage licenses to at least 15 gay couples, some of whom then exchanged vows outside the courthouse, and dozens more same-sex couples lined up for a chance to tie the knot.

Bush calls for marriage ban, Feb. 25, 2004

President George W. Bush endorsed a constitutional amendment that would restrict marriage to two people of the opposite sex but leave open the possibility that states could allow civil unions. "The union of a man and a woman is the most enduring human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures and by every religious faith," Bush said.

"Marriage cannot be severed from its cultural, religious and natural roots without weakening the good influence of society."

New Paltz Gay Marriage, Feb. 27, 2004

Mayor Jason West begins performing same-sex marriages outside the Village Hall thrusting himself and the tiny village of New Paltz into the growing national debate over gay marriage. On March 3, West was ordered to stop marrying same-sex couples. "Late today, the judge ordered me not to solemnize same-sex marriages," West said in a press release. Later that day, he was issued a summons for presiding over the 24 marriages he performed. On June 10, all charges against West were dropped. But it still wasn't over for West. On Feb. 3, 2005, Ulster County Court Judge J. Michael Bruhn resurrected the charges, saying public officials cannot "pick and choose" which laws to obey. Claiming the case is not about same-sex marriage, Bruhn said the question was whether West lived up to his oath of office to uphold the law.

New Paltz's Mayor Jason West faces an uncertain future.

On June 6, the New York Supreme Court indicted West for performing 24 marriages of same-sex couples in 2004. He now faces 24 years in prison and thousands of dollars in fines. The Liberty Counsel, the legal arm of ultra-right Jerry Falwell Ministries, initiated the legal action against West. At press time, a sentence had yet to be imposed on West.

Oregon gay marriages, March 3, 2004

Multnomah County Commissioners began issuing same-sex marriage licenses on Wednesday March 3, 2004. Almost immediately people began to line up outside the County building where licenses are issued. Some couples spent the night to have the opportunity to legally marry.

Gay Couples can wed in Massachusetts, May 17, 2004

Following a court ruling that stated a ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional and amidst much opposition from Governor Mitt Romney, gay couples began marrying on May 17, 2004. Just to

see ***LAWRENCE*** *on 29*

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Saturday, August 27	Connecticut Sun	6pm	SpongeBob SquarePants Appearance

Lawrence v. Texas: Where are we two years later?

from page 27

make things difficult, Romney quickly dusted off a seldom-enforced 1913 law prohibiting non-residents from getting married in Massachusetts if their marriage would be "void" in their home state. Noting that same-sex marriages are not legal in any other state, the governor warned local officials not to issue licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples unless they swear on their application that they intend to reside in Massachusetts.

State constitutional gay marriage bans, Nov. 3, 2004

Six months after gay and lesbian couples won the right to marry in Massachusetts, opponents of same-sex marriage struck back, with voters in 11 states approving constitutional amendments codifying marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution.

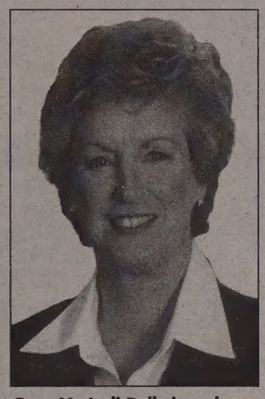
Voters in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah all approved anti-same-sex marriage amendments by double-digit margins.

Oregon's gay marriage ban takes effect, Dec. 1, 2004

A state constitutional ban on gay marriage took effect as the Oregon Supreme Court awaited final briefs from lawyers to determine whether nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples are valid.

Same-sex marriages in Oregon nullified, April 14, 2005

The Oregon Supreme Court nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by Multnomah County a year prior, saying a single county couldn't take such action on its own. The court said that, while the county can question the constitutionality of laws governing marriage, they are a matter of statewide concern so the county had no authority to issue licenses to gay couples.



Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed a bill creating civil unions for Connecticut on April 20, 2005.

Connecticut passes Civil Union Bill, April 20, 2005

Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell signs a bill creating civil unions in the state less than an hour after it passed its final hurdle in the legislature. The bill gives same-sex couples many of the rights of marriage.

Oregon passes Civil Union Bill, July 6, 2005

The Oregon Senate passes an LGBT civil rights bill that includes civil unions and the inclusion of gays and lesbians in Oregon's nondiscrimination act. The bill will create a civil unions registry and grant same-sex couples many of the rights available to married couples including inheritance benefits, pensions, property rights when a partner dies, and the right to make medical decisions for a partner.

International Developments

While some things were looking up and other things were getting downright ugly here at home — around the globe, some gays were looking at the world through rose colored glasses. Although these developments were probably not impacted by the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, it's interesting to note they have occurred following the ruling.

In New Zealand a law allowing same-sex partners to have nearly the same legal rights as married couples came into force on April 26, 2005.

The law makes civil union ceremonies available for both same-sex couples and heterosexual couples seeking a pact that's nominally less binding than marriage.

Labour Party lawmaker Tim Barnett, who lobbied for the bill, said he hoped that ceremonies over the weekend would cause opponents of civil unions to reconsider.

"They will see two people who are committed and want the world to know," Barnett said. "I would have thought it's hard for people to feel threatened by that."

On Friday, June 18, the Swiss parliament approved legislation to set up a form of civil partnership for same-sex couples that will provide many of the same social and economic rights as marriage partnerships. The proposal passed by a margin of 33-5 in the Swiss senate, the Council of States, after the lower house, the National Council, had already passed it, 112-51.

Canada has offered same-sex marriage in many provinces since late 2003. It became official June 28, 2005 as the country finally approved legislation allowing gays and lesbians to marry across the country, becoming the third country to legalize same-sex marriages The House of Commons in Ottawa voted 158 to 133 in favor of a bill legalizing same-sex marriages, following the Netherlands and Belgium. The law extends the right for gays and lesbians to marry in any province or territory, lifting a ban imposed by four of the 13 regions.

On the heels of that decision came Spain — which became the fourth country to allow gay men and lesbians the right to marry their same-sex partners on June 30, 2005.

Last, but certainly not least, Britain will begin recognizing civil partnerships beginning Dec. 21, 2005.

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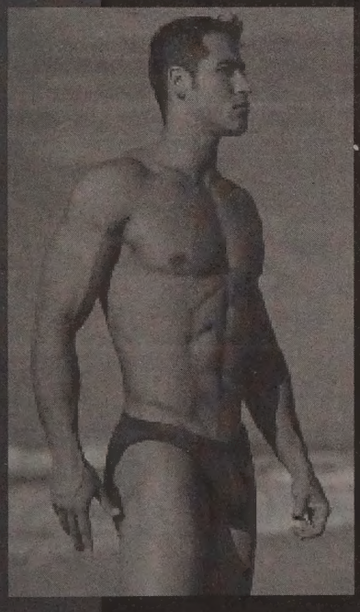

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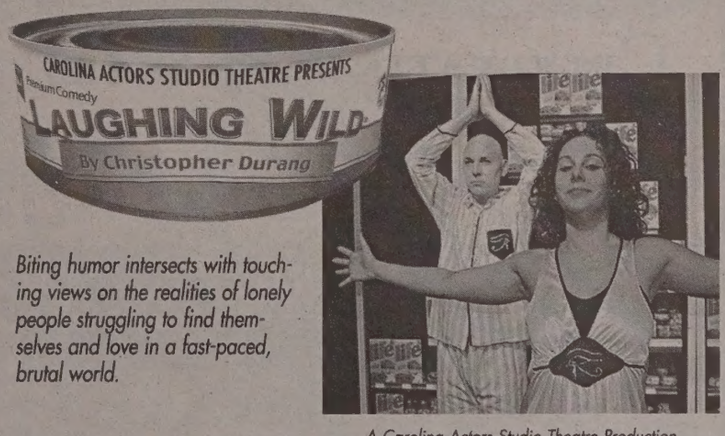

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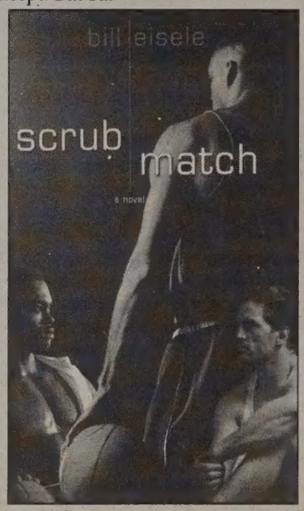
'Scrub Match' follows a recent college grad from New York to San Francisco in 1998 as he tries to escape painful memories of a failed relationship

by J.S. Hall

It's still a popular stereotype that gay men and sports just don't mix (well, aside from figure skating and softball, but let's not go there). Perhaps that's why people found the recent "Queer Eye" episode where the Fab Five made over some of the Red Sox such a hilarious concept. But suffice it to say that the idea of gay men participating in most sports is generally regarded as fertile grounds for comedy. But when someone like Bill Eisele presents a story about a gay man's love of basketball and takes it seriously, that's interesting enough to warrant attention.



The cover art of "Scrub Match" might lead one to believe it's a story about professional athletes, but in fact it's the wryly-told tale of Paul Carter, a recent college graduate from New York who moves to San Francisco in 1998 to escape painful memories of a failed relationship. The product of a mixed marriage, he's still coming to terms with his sexuality and coming to grips with the reality of trying to survive in super-expensive San Francisco on an office temp's measly salary.

For fun, Paul shoots hoops on his neighborhood basketball courts. He loves the game, but has never been very good at it, much to his father's chagrin. One night, he meets Evan Hartwich — "Twitch" — a young white guy with porcupine-like moussed hair and a lot of talent with the ball. Twitch shows Paul some moves, and seems like he's putting the move on Paul as well. Intrigued, Paul joins the Gamblers, the gay men's basketball league that Twitch is on. Unfortunately, he soon discovers he has competition in the relationship arena in the form of Curtis, the hot-headed African-American alpha male who rules the basketball court and Twitch's heart. In this game, there can only be one winner — but who will it be?

"Scrub Match" triumphs with a winning combination of an engaging protagonist, a fearsome adversary and a wittily-told coming-of-age tale in which things are rarely what they seem and people's actions have palpable consequences. But without the Paul, the story would have no backbone, and he's a very interesting, atypical gay character. Readers will easily identify with his self-doubt and desire for a loving boyfriend. Some might also identify with Paul's dogged persistence, and possibly even with Paul's somewhat questionable actions as he focuses on his object of desire a bit too much. Fortunately, Eisele always keeps Paul a very sympathetic character, even when his actions aren't so likeable (or possibly borderline illegal). Anyone who's ever really, really wanted a connection with someone else can easily relate to Paul's situation, even at its most extreme moments.

While "Scrub Match" certainly qualifies as good beach-read material, it also has a surprising depth to it. In addition to moments of droll banter and steamy sex, it also explores the corrosive effect that sex can have on a friendship, the obsessive nature of infatuation, and a novel resolution to healing a father–son rift. It offers readers a credible journey into the world of basketball, teamwork and camaraderie without drowning readers in confusing jargon or arcane knowledge of the sport. In short, this novel got game, and Bill Eisele scores big with this memorable debut populated with interesting characters, a nicely evoked setting and a central conflict that's universal yet uniquely personal all at once.

info:
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drag rag

miss della

Well, kids, y'all know the drill…tea time with Miss D, where we talk about pageants and the girls who have won them (or got pretty close, anyway). Happy Pride and summer to everyone as we hash and rehash results from here and there and everywhere in between.

Our pic this time is of Larry Edwards, known in drag circles as the legendary Hot Chocolate, being presented with a key to the city he calls home, Las Vegas, for his contributions to the area as an entertainer and for his role in the movie "Miss Congeniality 2." Known by some as Proud Larry, Edwards and N.C. entertainer Coti Collins were just in LA making a presentation to a group of investors who'd like to put a LaCage show near the Kodak Theatre. Pretty impressive, huh? Well, they both have plenty of experience, for sure. As we go to press, tickets for the 26th Annual Miss Continental contest are going on sale and by the time you read this it'll be sold out, I'm sure. I spoke with pageant owner Jim Flint the other day and in addition to praising his current title-holder Erica Renee Andrews, he did tell me that they are seeking to take a Baton show on the road, with a pit stop in N.C., to help raise money for the Gay Olympics taking place in Chicago next summer. Hopefully some smart bar owner will sign on the dotted line — that would be a guaranteed packed house. Girls who have recently qualified to compete at this year's Miss Continental include the new Miss AL Franchesque Richards, Enchanted Isle — Kristina Kelly, IL — Jocilyn Santana, Lucho's — Samantha Chanel, Peach State — Savannah Leigh, Texas — Taryn Taylor, Virginia Icon — Dominique Chappelle, and Wisconsin — Jazmine Roberts.

Hot Chocolate gets the key to Las Vegas!

The next big pageant quickly approaching is the National Entertainer of the Year and what a knock-down it will be this time. Recent qualifiers include Camille Simpson as Miss Missouri, LaWanda Jackson as Miss North Carolina, and Erika Norell won Miss Southern Florida. Throw those names in with Catia Lee Love and you've got a throw-down at the end of July in Louisville.

Since I mentioned Erica Andrews earlier, what perfect time to bring up the results of the Universal Show Queen, which she just relinquished in gorgeous Hawaii. The winner was Cassandra Colby, with runners-up Maddalynn Ashton, Kassondra K., and former Miss U.S.ofA. Raquel Lord.

Another contest which recently took place was Miss International PLUS over in TN; Dena Cass was giving it up and she crowned a Continental PLUS sister — Victoria Parker, who's currently living in Nash-Thrill. Her RU was the Lady Ivana. The Pig won gown, talent, on-stage question and interview. Wow, still taking her broom wherever she goes, sweeping all the categories.

Several weeks ago, the 10th anniversary Queen City contests took place at Scorpio, thanks to Tracey Stephens, and here are the results: Mr. QC — Devon Dickerson Diamond and RU Terrell Davis; Mr. QC at Large — Adonis King and RU Gemini Walker; Miss QC — Triana Spaulding and RU Elise C. Snow; and Miss QC at Large — Malaysia Black with RU Tezra DeVore. Thanks to Tracey for bringing the Charlotte crowd entertainers such as the newly crowned Miss U.S.ofA. Tamisha Iman, former Miss U.S.ofA. and Continental PLUS Chevelle Brooks, former Miss Everything Sasha Valentino, as well as formers (or those giving up titles that night) like Tenisha Cassadine, Elaine Davis, Veronica Stephens, Kysha Wellington, the current Miss Gay Classique P. Jazzmyne

see DRAG on 34

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Gay couple can win wedding from 'Today'

Entries would be restricted to Massachusetts gay couples, possibly Vermont

by Chris Bugbee

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) applauds NBC's decision to accept submissions for its "Today Throws a Hometown Wedding" event from eligible gay and lesbian couples — revising earlier criteria that limited entries to "currently engaged couples consisting of a male and a female."

In a conversation with GLAAD June 22, NBC publicist Lauren Kapp said that the submission criteria for "Today Throws a Hometown Wedding" had been revised and would allow eligible same-sex couples to enter.

"Fairness, inclusion and equal opportunity are core American values, and NBC's decision to open 'Today's' wedding series to gay and lesbian couples is an important affirmation of those values," said GLAAD Director of Media Programs and Communications Glennda Testone. "By accepting eligible same-sex couples into one of its flagship programs, NBC — like the more than 500 newspapers across America that now accept gay and lesbian wedding announcements — is reflecting the reality of the world around us and, potentially, opening a door for its audience to see the values of our families and the joy of our commitments."

NBC's rules for "Today Throws a Hometown Wedding" (available online at www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8131990/), have been updated to reflect the network's decision to accept entries from eligible same-sex couples. According to Kapp, language in the Eligibility Criteria section that reads "each couple submitting a completed application form must consist of a male and a female" will also be changed.

The Big Screen

from page 26

Miles (unbilled — but thanked — Johnny Galecki). "So he can stare at our asses all night."

Top acting honors go to Kudrow and a stunningly sexy Gyllenhaal, with Coogan and Cannavale handling some unusual — for them — turns with dexterity. Arnold underplays effectively and Bradford offsets his sleaze with a dollop of sensitivity. Dern and Clarke don't have a whole lot to do but the latter will amaze longtime "24" fans with this 180 from the lethal Nina.

For all its great acting and storytelling, "Happy Endings" manages a surprising number of moments that feel real, perhaps helped by judicious use of a hand-held camera. Despite all the terrific documentaries out there, here's proof that fiction can still be stranger — and more entertaining — than truth.

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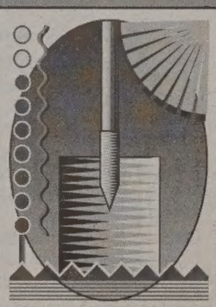

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Problem now crystal clear

The gay community has a big ol' problem, and it's not figuring out what to wear to the Tonys year after year.

Crystal meth is out of the closet. Gay publications around the country are running stories about the bitch called "Tina." An alarm has gone off and a lot of folks are no longer hitting the snooze button.

Sorry. Something about this subject makes me leap for metaphors.

In one story, ex-addict Peter Staley of New York says a year and a half ago the methamphetamine problem was rarely discussed. "If it came up, it was someone bragging about their wild weekend on meth." Now he says gay guys are as likely to tell each other to keep away from the stuff as they are to say, ooh, try it, it's the best thing since the *International Male* catalog.

A piece in San Diego's *Gay & Lesbian Times* points out, "Though the meth epidemic is not unique to gay and bisexual men, what is unique among this population is the use of meth primarily to facilitate and enhance sex." All too often, studies show, men who are experiencing "this euphoric, chemical self-confidence" are also giving safe sex the bum's rush, pun sorta intended.

From 10 to 20 percent of all gay men use meth, and maybe clear up to 40 percent in San Francisco, The Associated Press guesstimates. Among its many charms, Tina apparently makes addicts of users faster than a drag queen pounces on a sale-priced wig. Aside from the glaring HIV risk, meth also offers the user the chance to lose his teeth, or sink into paranoia. Ironically, meth abuse can also make it tough to have an orgasm, or sustain an erection, the so-called "crystal dick" effect.

All this and you get to pay money for it too? Such a deal.

I've been reading the explanations from experts of why gay men are so attracted to this drug, but what sticks with me most is the sentiment of longtime user Bart Johnson, clean for seven years, who remembers the precise date and time he first tangoed with Tina. He remarks that "it's the first time I really ever felt normal . . . Suddenly all those inhibitions and feelings about yourself go away. Everything that you thought was bad about yourself you completely forget."

We're not going to erase anytime soon all the factors that can make a gay man feel badly about himself. Ranging from worldwide homophobia to the stigma of having HIV to the gay male preoccupation with appearance to the heartbreak of psoriasis, there's a lot to be fixed.

I like the approach of director and actor John Cameron Mitchell, who says we need "intelligent scare tactics, to convince people the drug is uncool." He notes, "You have a lot of young gay men coming into the city—they were the nerds in high school, the wallflower, the ugly kid." To them "the city is the place to be sexy, to be a star, and they get a false burst of confidence with a drug like this."

Then there are the bathhouses and sex parties and people who advertise online that they're into the "Party and Play" scene, meaning meth and sex together. Sometimes it seems easier to stop a charging rhino (by taking away its credit card, silly), than to change a culture.

It's seriously tempting, as we struggle for equal rights, to hide our dirty laundry. Throw it down a mine shaft, even. But we know that hiding something will not make it go away. A lot of us have already given that a whirl.

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Thelma Houston comes to the aid of struggling AIDS charity

Grammy-winning artist best known for gay dance smash 'Don't Leave Me This Way'

by Stephen Diva

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — She's Whitney's aunt and Dionne Warwicke's cousin. She's also a legendary Grammy Award-winning diva who brought us the smash club hit "Don't Leave Me This Way."

A long-time supporter of the LGBT community and well-known for her tireless efforts in the battle against AIDS, Thelma Houston was once again a big winner on NBC's hit summer show, "Hit Me Baby One More Time," with two hot performances — one, her world-renowned single and the other, a smoking rendition of the Alicia Keys smash, "Fallin'."

Houston has performed consistently since breaking onto the music scene in the late 1970s. She appeared on NBC's new reality music competition, which is an adaptation of a British TV favorite (showcasing beloved performers of past big hits) on June 23, and was voted the audience's favorite.

The win netted Houston a $20,000 donation in her name to the charity of her choice: The Minority AIDS Project of Los Angeles (MAPLA). Recently the topic of a feature in the *Los Angeles Times* because of financial woes that were threatening to close them down, MAPLA just happened to be uppermost in Houston's mind because she had read the *Times* piece.

Founded in 1985 as the first AIDS group in the United States to focus on African-Americans, MAPLA is headed by the Reverend Carl Bean.

"Ms. Houston exemplifies love, and that love is really unconditional," says Bean. "She's able to offer herself to the disenfranchised, those who are invisible to many others in our society." There's no disputing the fact that Houston has long been known as a humanitarian for her ongoing support of the LGBT community and her tireless efforts in the battle against AIDS. In 2003 the city of West Hollywood even proclaimed Wednesday, Jan. 29, as "Thelma Houston Day."

Houston has generated 15 albums throughout her illustrious career. She also holds the distinction of being Motown Records' first solo female artist to win the coveted Grammy Award for "Best R&B Female Vocal Performance." Her classic gold song, "Don't Leave Me This Way," has become one of the defining songs of the disco era, and most recently enjoyed a new life on the "Miss Congeniality 2" movie soundtrack.

Also an accomplished actress, Houston has appeared in many movies, such as Oprah Winfrey's "Beloved," "And God Created Woman" and has just landed a role in an upcoming new comedy called "Dirty Laundry."

Legendary diva Thelma Houston

Currently in the studio recording an album of classic ballads, also on the backburner is possibly a jazz and gospel album, to remind listeners of her musical roots and diversity. Now 59, Houston shows no sign of slowing down. "I appreciate my career, and sometimes it really feels like I'm just getting started," she says.

info:
www.thelmahouston.com

Drag Rag

from page 31

Darnell, our Miss NC FFI Mysha Paris, Cedric, and Armon Brooks.

We have results from so many other local contests as well, like Miss Tri-Cities FFI which Brooke Devine won, with RU Keiana Lane; Tia Chanella who won Miss Gemini, a part of the Zodiac contest up in WV; Beverly Iman Johnson won Miss Charlotte FFI with RU Riva Iman Black and Felicia Monet winning gown; Miss Legends which Raven Simone won with RU Elaine Natasha Davis; Miss CC's Breyanna Allure with RU Aeriel Knight-Addams; and Ashley Adams won Miss Virginia in the United States system with RU Jessica Jade.

Congrats to local girlfriend Sierra Santana who recently completed a two-week run of Psycho Beach Party at Spirit Square in the Duke Power Theatre as drag vixen Bettina Barnes. This is a role she did last year in a smaller venue and won the Best Theatre Newcomer award. In fact, she's already been asked to host the next one. All right for some exposure in legitimate show business, sister.

In closing, I also wanted to congratulate former Miss Continental Danielle Hunter on her recent trip to Venezuela as part of a huge celebration they had there in conjunction with Sprite (yes, the soda)...turns out a bunch of kids had seen the Continental tapes, and lived for her, and asked the company to bring her. She and hubby Johnny were flown down for a couple weeks and she had rehearsals for a grande production and everything. How fabulous.

info:
Drop me a line, OK? • TheTeaMissD@yahoo.com

OUTMusic Awards recognize LGBT recording artists from around the globe

from page 25

Outstanding Songwriter for songs from her sixth album — "Ballads & Burlesque" — a set of 10 story-songs reflecting on different aspects of seduction (Sage recently performed at S.C. Pride in Columbia, S.C.).

The Outstanding New Recording — Instrumental award went to classical composer and multi-Grammy nominee Jennifer Higdon for her "City Scape & Concerto for Orchestra" recorded by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, conduced by Robert Spano.

Adding an international flair to OUTMusic 2005 were the Irish jazz/celtic/pop duo Zrazy, who took home the Outstanding New Recording — Duo or Group award for their CD, "Dream On."

Preceding the show were four days of citywide events showcasing GLBT music. More than 70 artists, groups, songwriters and producers were nominated in 12 Outmusic Award categories.

Zrazy

Outmusic is a worldwide network formed in 1991 that actively works to support and promote the works of gay/lesbian musicians through open mics, showcases, seminars, CD samplers and music festivals as well as sponsoring the Outmusic Awards.

Rachael Sage

info:
www.outmusic.com

Outmusic

The 2005 recipients at a glance:

New Recording (Female):
Adrianne
"10,000 Stones"

New Recording (Male):
Ari Gold
"Space Under Sun"

New Recording (Duo or Group):
Zrazy
"Dream On"

New Recording (Band):
The Bobbleheads,
"Automatic Fun"

New Recording (Chorus or Choir):
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
"Closer Than Ever"

New Recording (Instrumental):
Jennifer Higdon
"City Scape & Concerto for Orchestra"

Debut Recording (Female):
Kitty Rose,
"Kitty Rose's Greatest Hits"

Debut Recording (Male):
Dylan Rice
"Wandering Eyes"

Producer:
Rocco Kaiyatos
for Katastophe's
"Let's Fuck,
Then Talk About My Problems"

Songwriter:
Rachael Sage
for songs from her CD
"Ballads and Burlesque"

Outsong on the Year:
"Another Day of Cruelty"
by Scott Free

Outmusician of the Year:
Scott Free
for his album "They Call Me Mr. Free"

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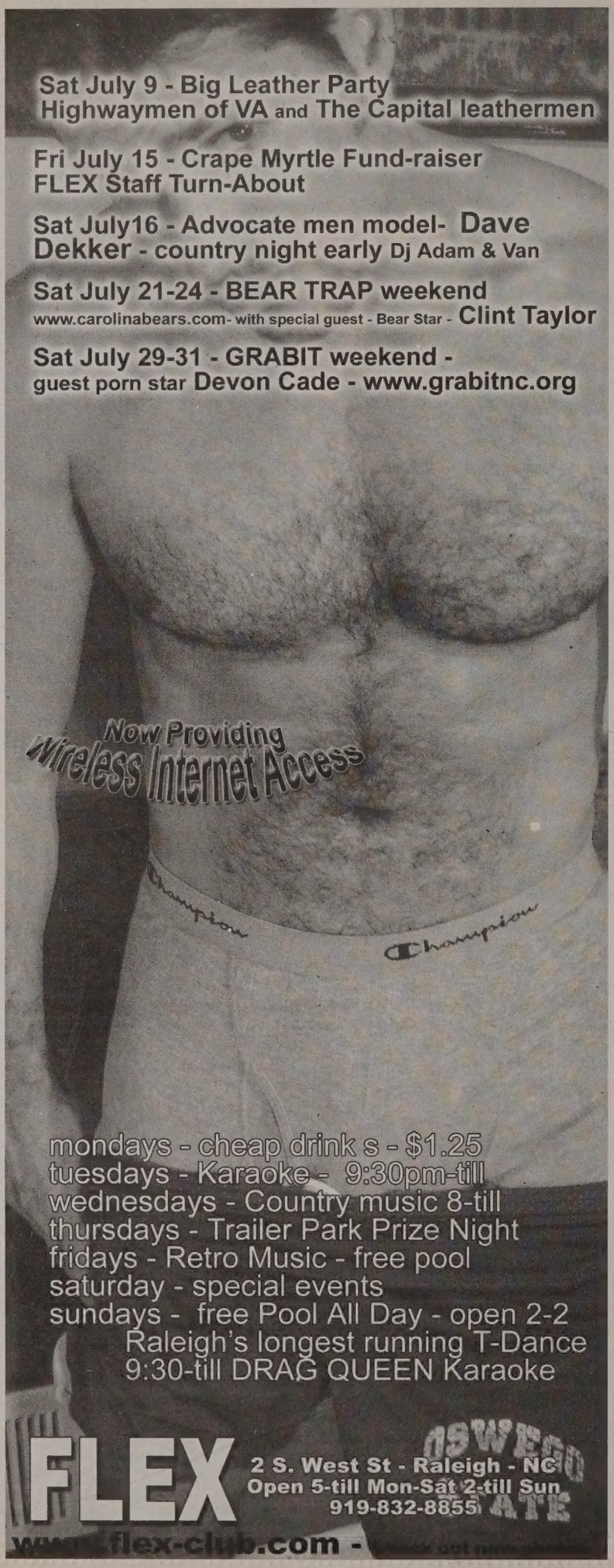
Sat July 9 - Big Leather Party
Highwaymen of VA and The Capital leathermen
Fri July 15 - Crape Myrtle Fund-raiser
FLEX Staff Turn-About
Sat July16 - Advocate men model- Dave Dekker - country night early Dj Adam & Van
Sat July 21-24 - BEAR TRAP weekend
www.carolinabears.com- with special guest - Bear Star - Clint Taylor
Sat July 29-31 - GRABIT weekend -
guest porn star Devon Cade - www.grabitnc.org
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Harriet Hancock Center
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GLBTQ Switchboards

For meetings, or guidance contact the GLBTQ Switchboard in your area:

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Charlotte	704-535-6277
Raleigh	919-821-0055
Winston-Salem	336-748-0031

South Carolina

Charleston	843-720-8088
Columbia	803-771-7713

Upcoming Events

July 16 - Nov. 1 • Charlotte
Within Our Walls Art Exhibition

The 6th Annual Art Exhibition, curated by Joie Lassiter at the Bank of America Plaza, highlights

Carole King performs in Raleigh July 17 and Charlotte July 19.

some of the best contemporary artwork from the collections of The Mint Museum of Art, the McColl Center for Visual Arts, and the Andreas H. Bechtler Collection. Featuring artists Tim Rollins, Don Harvey, Elizabeth Turk, Raffael Benazzi, Hans-Peter Weber, Marc Lambrechts, Anna Skibska, and Kojo Griffin. Bank of America Plaza, 101 S. Tryon St. For more information, contact Joie Lassiter Gallery, 704-373-1464.

July 16 - 23 • Durham
American Dance Festival

Celebrating 72 seasons with 50 performances by 17 companies from seven countries (Argentina, Australia, France, Indonesia, Israel, The Netherlands and the U.S.). Go to www.americandancefestival.org for times and locations. For more information, call 919-684-6402.

July 16 • Columbia
"Take Me Out"

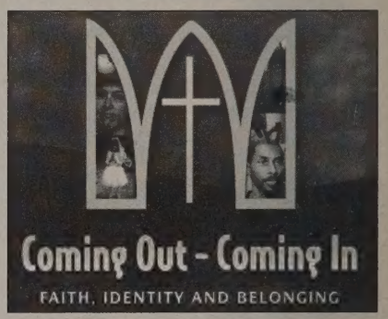
All-American as baseball, friendship and being gay. The sensational hit play about what happens when a professional baseball player comes out of the closet. Trustus Theater, 520 Lady St. For more information, call 803-254-9732.

July 16 • Charlotte
"The METHod of my Madness"

One-man show about a young gay man's experiences in acting, crystal meth and coping with the discovery that he's HIV-positive. Actor's Theater, 650 E. Stonewall St.
For more information, call 704-342-2251.

July 16 • Charlotte
Black Gay Pride party at The Barn

Dance party featuring three VIP rooms, four DJs, five bars and an outside stage featuring live entertainment. 10 p.m. - until. Located off I-85 N. on the North Graham St. exit.



Coming Out ~ Coming In comes to Durham on July 22.

July 16 • Charlotte
Black Gay Pride Expo

Featuring vendors from all over the Carolinas, Pride souvenirs, a fashion show, authors/book signings, a kidz corner, motivational speakers, informative workshops, great foods and much more. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Afro-American Cultural Center, 401 N. Myers St. For more information, call 704-374-1565.

July 17 • Raleigh
Carole King

Singer-songwriter extraordinaire who brought us such classics as "It's Too Late" and "Only Love is Real" performs her hits and songs from her latest CD, "Love Makes the World." Alltell Pavillion/Walnut Creek, 3801 Rock Quarry Rd. For more information, call 919-831-6666.

July 17 • Charlotte
Charlotte Sting vs. Houston Comets

Charlotte's all-female basketball team takes on the Houston Comets. 4 p.m. Charlotte Coliseum, 100 Paul Buck Blvd. For more information, call 704-357-4700.

July 17 • Charlotte
Black Gay Pride Gospel Lunch

A Charlotte NC Black Gay Pride event. Featuring Rev. Tonyia Rawls and gospel music from the One Spirit choir. Complimentary community luncheon following the service. 1 p.m. at Unity Fellowship Church 2127 Eastway Dr. For more information, visit www.ufccharlotte.org

July 17 • Charlotte
Organik Funk

A Charlotte NC Black Gay Pride event. Hip-hop, soul and spoken word expression, featuring Organik Funk Poets Alumni. Open mic showcase. Giveaways and complimentary refreshments. 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. at Spirit Square. Corner of College and 7th St.

July 18 • Charlotte
Tosco Music Party

Acoustic music showcase featuring a variety of performers, including David Roth
Donna Duncan, Emily Hoffman, justincase, Kendall Gurske, Lisa Leuschner, Poprocket,

see next page >

Robin Bullock Ronald Gattis, Rudy Currence, Son De Cuba, Strictly Dixie, Tesser, The DesChamps Band and The Near Misses, among others. 7–11 p.m. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Belk Theatre, 130 North Tryon St. For more information, call 704-372-1000.

July 19 • Charlotte
Carole King

Singer-songwriter extraordinaire who brought us such classics as "It's Too Late" and "Only Love is Real" performs her hits and songs from her latest CD, "Love Makes the World." Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.

July 19 • Charlotte
Charlotte Sting vs. Connecticut Sun

Charlotte's all-female basketball team takes on the Connecticut Sun. Noon. Charlotte Coliseum, 100 Paul Buck Blvd. For more information, call 704-357-4700.

July 20 • Charlotte
Duran Duran

The Brit pop boys who created such pop sensations as "Reflex" and "Hungry Like the Wolf" are still touring. Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.

July 21 • Charlotte
Ladysmith Black Mambazo

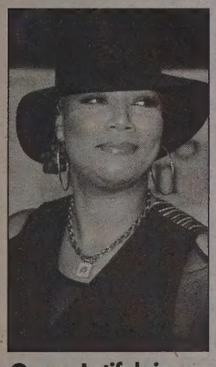
Rare American performance by this classic South African accapello group. Neighborhood Theater, 511 E. 36th St. For more information, call 704-358-9298.

July 22 • Durham
"Coming Out ~ Coming In"

Documentary about N.C. gays and lesbians and their experiences with Christianity and the church. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. screenings. PSI Theatre, 120 Morris St.

July 22 • Charlotte
Destiny's Child

They say it's their last tour together (prolly cuz Beyoncé wants to focus on an acting career) so you might not wanna miss this divaliscious threesome as they perform hits like "Survivor," "Independent Woman" and "Say My Name." Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.



Queen Latifah is part of "The Sugar Water Festival" at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre in Charlotte July 23.

July 23
Charlotte
The Sugar Water Festival

Featuring the talents of Jill Scott, Erykah Badu, Floetry and Queen Latifah. Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.

July 23
Boone
Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Rare American performance by this classic South African accapello group. Farthing Auditorium at Appalachian State University. For more information, call 828-262-4046.

July 23 • Charlotte
Charlotte Sting vs. Indiana Fever

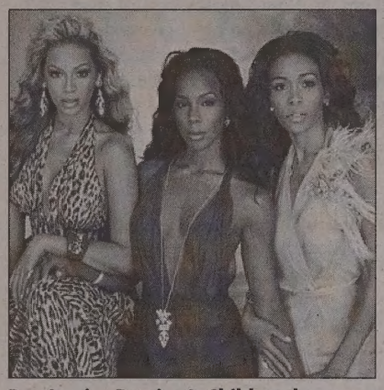
Charlotte's all-female basketball team takes on the Indiana Fever. 6 p.m. Charlotte Coliseum, 100 Paul Buck Blvd. For more information, call 704-357-4700.

July 24 • Raleigh
Destiny's Child

They say it's their last tour together (prolly cuz Beyoncé wants to focus on an acting career) so you might not wanna miss this divaliscious threesome as they perform hits like "Survivor," "Independent Woman" and "Say My Name." Alltell Pavillion/Walnut Creek, 3801 Rock Quarry Rd. For more information, call 919-831-6666.

July 24 • Charlotte
Brenda Russell & Peabo Bryson

She's a jazz legend and he's an R&B staple that does infomercials these days. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 100 N. Tryon St. For more information, call 704-333-4686.



Don't miss Destiny's Child at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre in Charlotte July 22 and Walnut Creek's AllTell Pavillion in Raleigh July 24.

July 24 • Charlotte
Bruce Springsteen

Songs like "Streets of Philadelphia," "Dancin' in the Dark, "Born in the USA" and "Hungry Heart" prove this left wing liberal rocker is still the boss. Charlotte Coliseum, 100 Paul Buck Blvd. For more information, call 704-522-6500.

July 24 • Charlotte
Kelly Clarkson

"Behind those Hazel Eyes" and "Because of You" are part of the retinue this "American Idol" winner will bring to the stage. Cricket Arena, 2700 E. Independence Blvd. For more information, call 704-335-3100.

July 26 • Charlotte
John Mellencamp

Friend of the down and out and civil rights activist Mellencamp made it big in the '80s and '90s with songs like "Jack and Diane" and "R-O-C-K in the USA." Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.

July 30 • Charlotte
James Taylor

Revolutionary relax rocker that gave us such hits as "Country Road," "Carolina on My Mind" and "Up on the Roof." Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555.

July 30 • Raleigh
Crape Myrtle Festival

www.crapemyrtlefest.org.
More information to come.

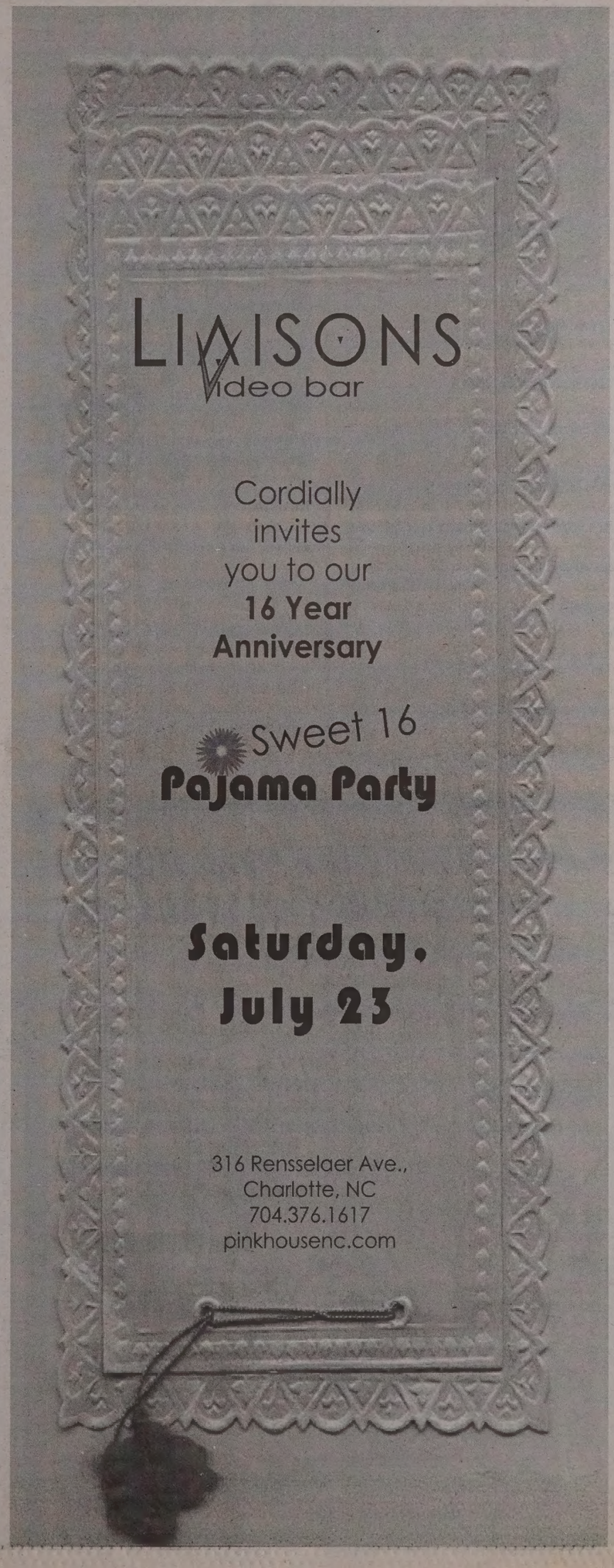
August 4 • Charlotte
Keith Sweat

Remember when everybody always called him *Keefsweat*? R&B and hip-hop artist made it big at the tail end of the '80s and throughout much of the '90s, but hasn't fared so well as a 21st century recording artist. At any rate, expect such classic "Sweat" as "Keep it Comin'," "Make You Sweat" and "Don't Stop Your Love." Cricket Arena, 2700 E. Independence Blvd. For more information, call 704-335-3100.

August 6 • Charlotte
Earth Wind & Fire

They are the bomb! "September," "Shining Star," "Boogie Wonderland" and "Fantasy," among many other classic R&B hits. Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre, 707 Pavillion Blvd. For more information, call 704-549-5555

info: Announce your community event in Out & About. Email: outandabout@q-notes.com or fax 704-531-1361.



tell trinity

trinity

If the first date is such hell, why bother?

Dearest Trinity,

I hate first dates. Why on earth would anyone put themselves through such hell as a first date?

Skeptical, Nashville, Tenn.

Dearest Skeptical,

Think of a first date as fun and lighthearted, like a stroll in the park *not* the Last Supper. Think adventure. Think learning about your likes and dislikes. Sure, some people are boring but others are charming, you'll see. And while some people are easy to figure out, others are shy, nervous or happen to be having a bad day. Sweetie, life is exciting, dating is exciting and first dates are…well, try starting with a good martini.

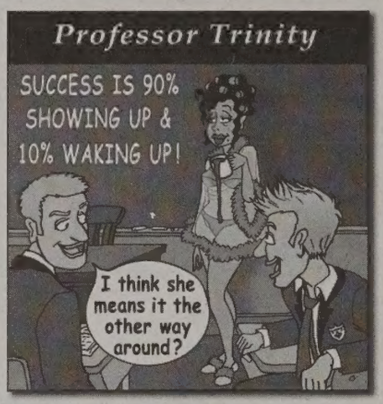
Hey Trinity,

My girlfriend gets on my case because I'm sometimes late for work. She says, "To be successful you have to show up on time." But I say success is about showing up period. Don't you think?

Successfully Late, Providence, RI

Hey Successfully Late,

Yes, it's been said, "Just show up and you're 90 percent there." But I say to be 100 percent successful for anything you have to be on time — and fully woken up wouldn't hurt either, pumpkin. Being late with an excuse still means *you're* late.



Hey Trinity,

I always date bad boys who treat me like crap and take advantage of my generosity. Sweet and kind eventually just turns me off. What's my problem?

Bad Choices, St. Louis, Mo.

Hey Bad Choices,

Does the term "self-destructive" ring a bell? While tough and rough is sexy and a good challenge may be a big turn on, honey, eventually you have to start dating someone who likes you more than you hate yourself. Make the switch.

Hello Trinity,

I just got dumped and I want to die. I put everything into this one. I can't believe this is happening. I can't even get out of bed. Any magic pills or potions?

Dumped And Dead, Houston, Texas

Hello Dumped And Dead,

I wish I had some pills, but I took them all. Now, I must ask: Is it really the "worst" thing? Will you give a damn in two years? And must you take forever to heal? Why not speed up the process with:

Trinity's Speedy Tips For Getting Over Getting Dumped

1. If you're depressed *be depressed*. Don't hide it, but rather feel it and get into it. A lot of great music and poetry came from depression.
2. Do things that make you — *laugh*. Watch TV comedies, rent funny movies and visit funny friends. Yes, on one hand life is serious, but on the other hand it's also very funny.
3. Sleep, sleep, *sleep*. Your mind and emotions are going to tango for a while, so let your dreams do what they do best, help you fantasize.
4. Keep busy with *projects*, i.e. work, school or volunteering. Sitting around feeling useless will make you crazy. Hey, start a dating book, I did.
5. On a piece of paper, everyday *write*: "I forgive him. I forgive that bastard! She is forgiven!" Forgiveness is healing and besides you'll forgive them anyway in 10 years.
6. Give your depression *two weeks*, no more. That's enough. Being depressed is very unhealthy. And then begin tips seven thru 10.
7. *Start dating* right away. Even if you know you're not ready, just start practicing again. Also get out and socialize, i.e. clubs, parties, anything.
8. *Have sex*. That's right. And right away. Don't save yourself. You need to feel sexy, alive and grounded. Even hire someone. Just this once.
9. Force yourself to *get over it* and move on. Be that person people say, "He isn't wasting time feeling sorry for himself."
10. Lastly, *go away*, stay away, move away but don't cohabitate with or near anyone who dumps you. And get rid of the guns.

Don't let your questions go unanswered!

With a Masters of Divinity, Reverend Trinity was host of Spiritually Speaking, *a weekly radio drama and now performs globally.*

info:

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Out in the stars

charlene lichtenstein

Saturn conjuncts the Sun, setting off sparks and brush fires in different areas of our lives. Some of us like fiery brushes while others prefer tamer adventures. Whatever your slice of paradise is, prepare to expend a lot more energy corralling it. Ah, but don't they say exercise is beneficial?

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Saturn and the Sun make you a social force with whom to be reckoned. Just like a supernova, you burst on the scene and demand attention. However, just like a supernova, proud Crabs run the risk of exploding and dissolving. Instead of rushing in to make an impression, take things slowly and deliberately. Why make a smudge when you can make a gorge?

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23) Proud Lions experience a spark of genius and perceptive intuition when Saturn pokes the Sun. Savor the moment before it all fades away. As long as you are all fired up, spread a little elbow grease on volunteer efforts for a worthy gay charity or political cause. Actions that you undertake now have lasting impact and benefit. Hurry before you can no longer filibuster, buster.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23) Just when you feel that you need a jolly crowd around you, Saturn and Sun start a Pride parade for your enjoyment. Queer Virgins become the social directors of the zodiac and are in demand. Seek connections, build bridges, join new clubs and groups and meet new folks. Someone may even help you get a leg up in your career. Don't settle for just a toe hold.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Saturn and Sun engage in corporate imperialism and gay Libras are ready to take advantage of the situation. Plot your professional ascent and be ready to grapple for control and power with worthy competitors. Be on your toes and keep a beady eye on hidden opportunities. Clever maneuvers can backfire though and you may be forced into positions that are not your style. Prone?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Proud Scorps are anxious to expand their global reach when Saturn hits the Sun. Maybe it's time to launch a blog complete with assorted photos and interesting (to some) personal factoids. That may not be enough. For those who prefer open space rather than cyberspace, maybe an excursion to some new and exciting vista will do the trick...and be a real treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22) Getting hungry, gay Archer? Temptations abound that increase your sexual appetite. Try the open buffet but remember that eating out will have a greater than usual impact on any serious one-to-one relationship. For those who are grazing the field on their own, use this time to sample a few different tastes. Develop a more sophisticated pallet while it is hot...and bothered.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20) There is a time for commitment and there is a time to reassess the situation. When Saturn conjuncts the Sun, pink Caps are poised for some type of action or reaction in their partnerships. Go or stay? Build or destroy? Whatever you decide to do, you have courage and conviction, if not always the common sense. This is a reckless time. Don't be reckless.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You're a whirling dervish at work thanks to Saturn and Sun. No project stands in your way and you are buzzing to become one of the most efficient worker bees in the office. Is this the prima donna, credit-taking Aqueerian that we all know and love? Roll up your sleeves and get to work while you have the excess energy. Then you can rest on your laurels later this month.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20) Even seriously shy Guppies can't help but feel emotionally and creatively charged up when Saturn rubs the Sun. You yearn to hop on the party train and chug a lug with the crowd. And why not? It's a good time to let loose; the crowd has no inhibitions and neither should you. Of course, there may be some who should not let it *all* hang out...no names please.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Proud Rams have an opportunity to look at their personal surroundings with fresh eyes when Saturn pushes the Sun. Do you like what you see or is your home in dire need of rejuvenation? Tackle home-based projects now and that also goes for nagging family issues from nagging family members. Sweeping things under the rug now makes a rather lumpy rug.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Despite the fact that most queer Bulls are deliberators rather than gossipers, you feel quite outfront and mouthy when Saturn rubs the Sun. Got something to say? Say it, cousin. Spill the beans and tell 'em what you really think. Your intuitive political sense will keep your more vicious barbs from drawing blood, unless of course that's the plan.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Lucky pink Twins can reap their fiscal rewards when careful Saturn conjuncts the Sun. Go for the big bucks by taking calculated risks and doing your monetary homework. But all that glitters is not gold; this is also the time to reassess what you truly value in life. Be willing to toss off what is no longer affirming and defining. Believe me, you won't miss it.

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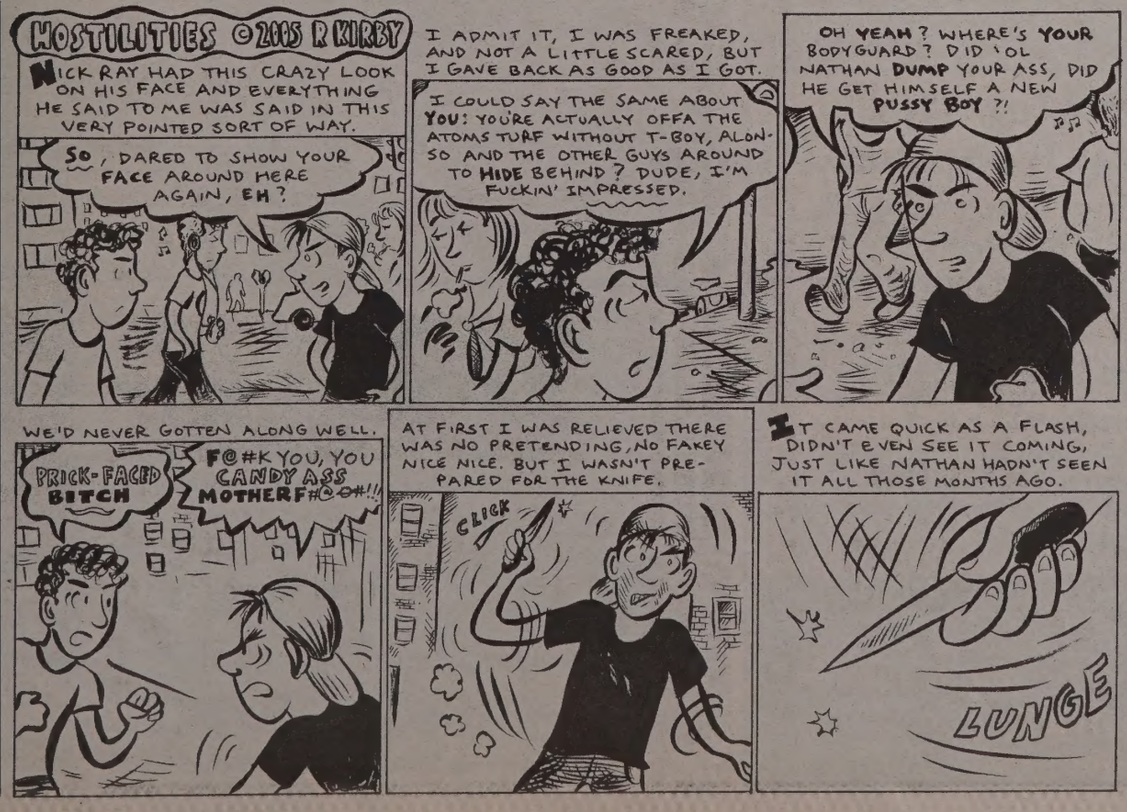
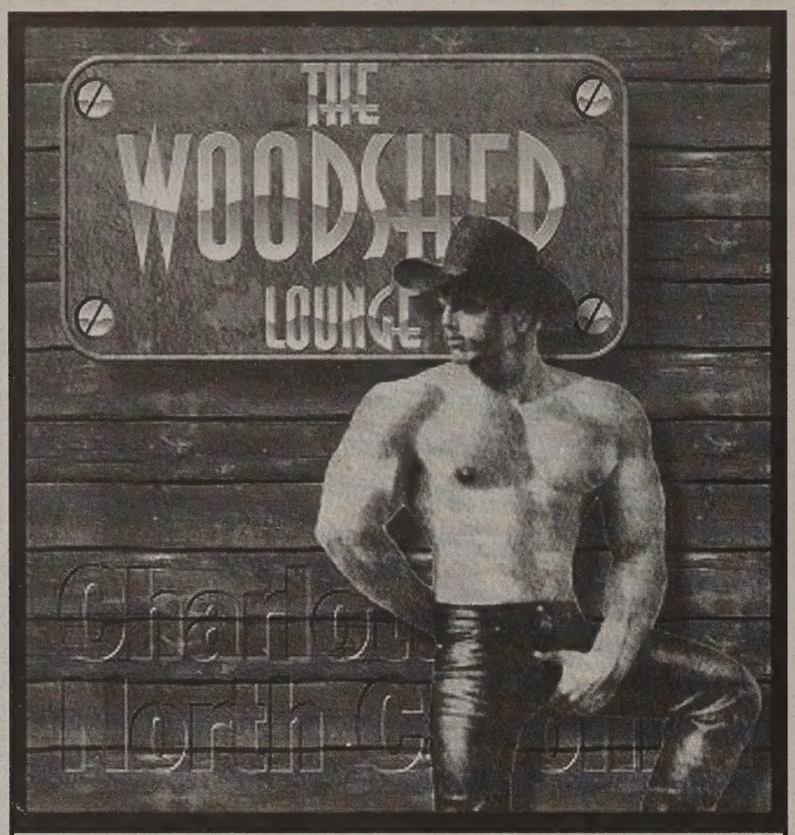

HOSTILITIES ©2005 R KIRBY
NICK RAY HAD THIS CRAZY LOOK ON HIS FACE AND EVERYTHING HE SAID TO ME WAS SAID IN THIS VERY POINTED SORT OF WAY.
SO, I DARED TO SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AGAIN, EH?
I ADMIT IT, I WAS FREAKED, AND NOT A LITTLE SCARED, BUT I GAVE BACK AS GOOD AS I GOT.
I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU: YOU'RE ACTUALLY OFFA THE ATOMS TURF WITHOUT T-BOY, ALONSO AND THE OTHER GUYS AROUND TO HIDE BEHIND? DUDE, I'M FUCKIN' IMPRESSED.
OH YEAH? WHERE'S YOUR BODYGUARD? DID 'OL NATHAN DUMP YOUR ASS, DID HE GET HIMSELF A NEW PUSSY BOY?!
WE'D NEVER GOTTEN ALONG WELL.
PRICK-FACED BITCH
F@#K YOU, YOU CANDY ASS MOTHERF#@O#!!
AT FIRST I WAS RELIEVED THERE WAS NO PRETENDING, NO FAKEY NICE NICE. BUT I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THE KNIFE.
CLICK
IT CAME QUICK AS A FLASH, DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT COMING, JUST LIKE NATHAN HADN'T SEEN IT ALL THOSE MONTHS AGO.
LUNGE



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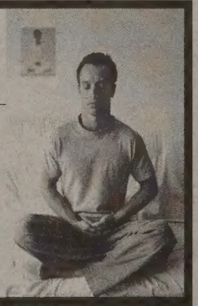

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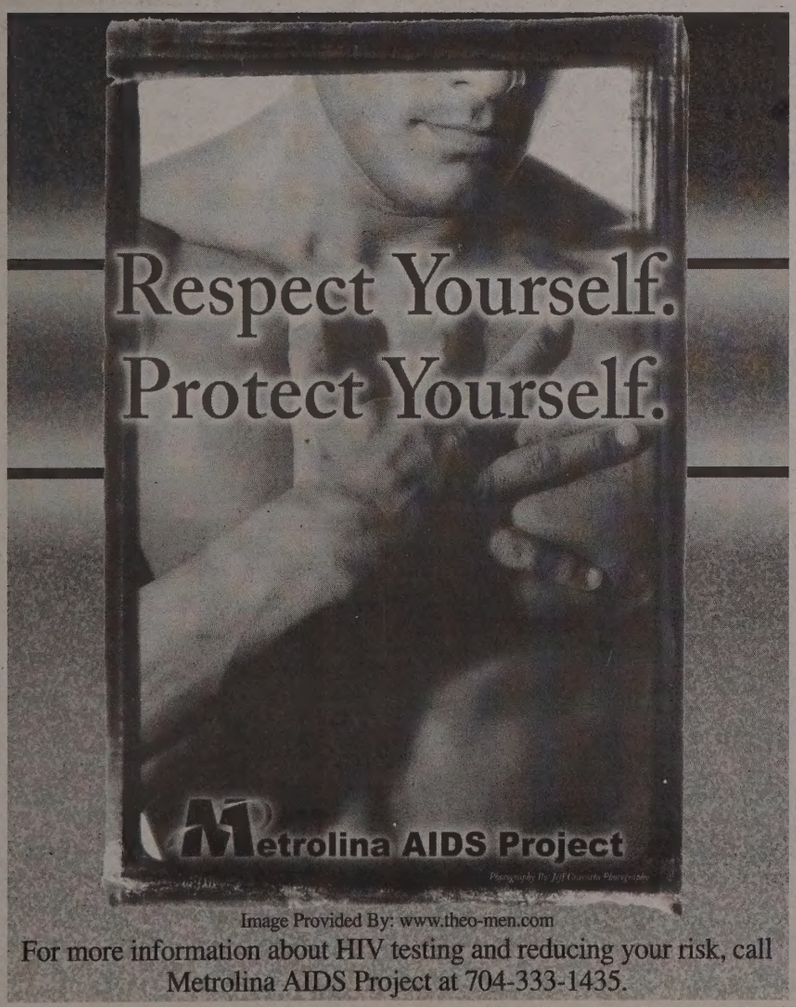

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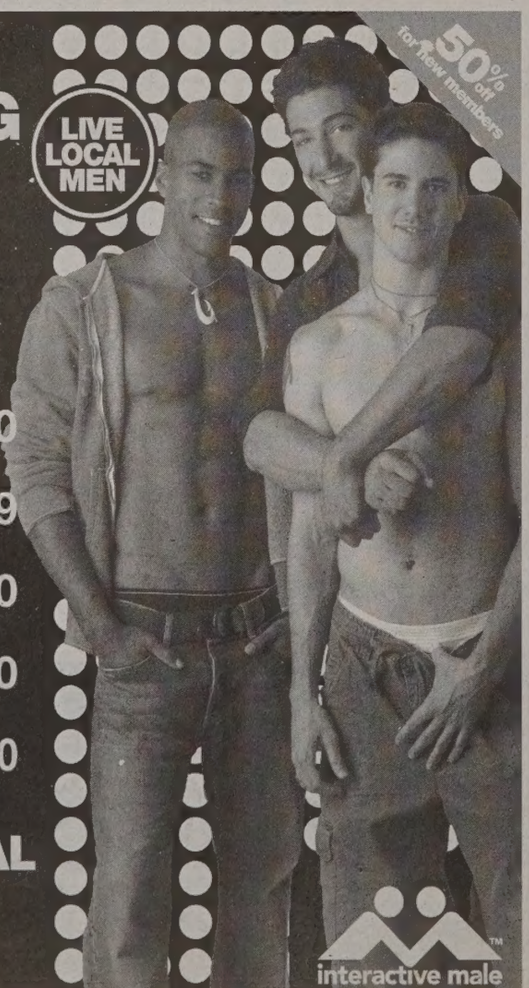

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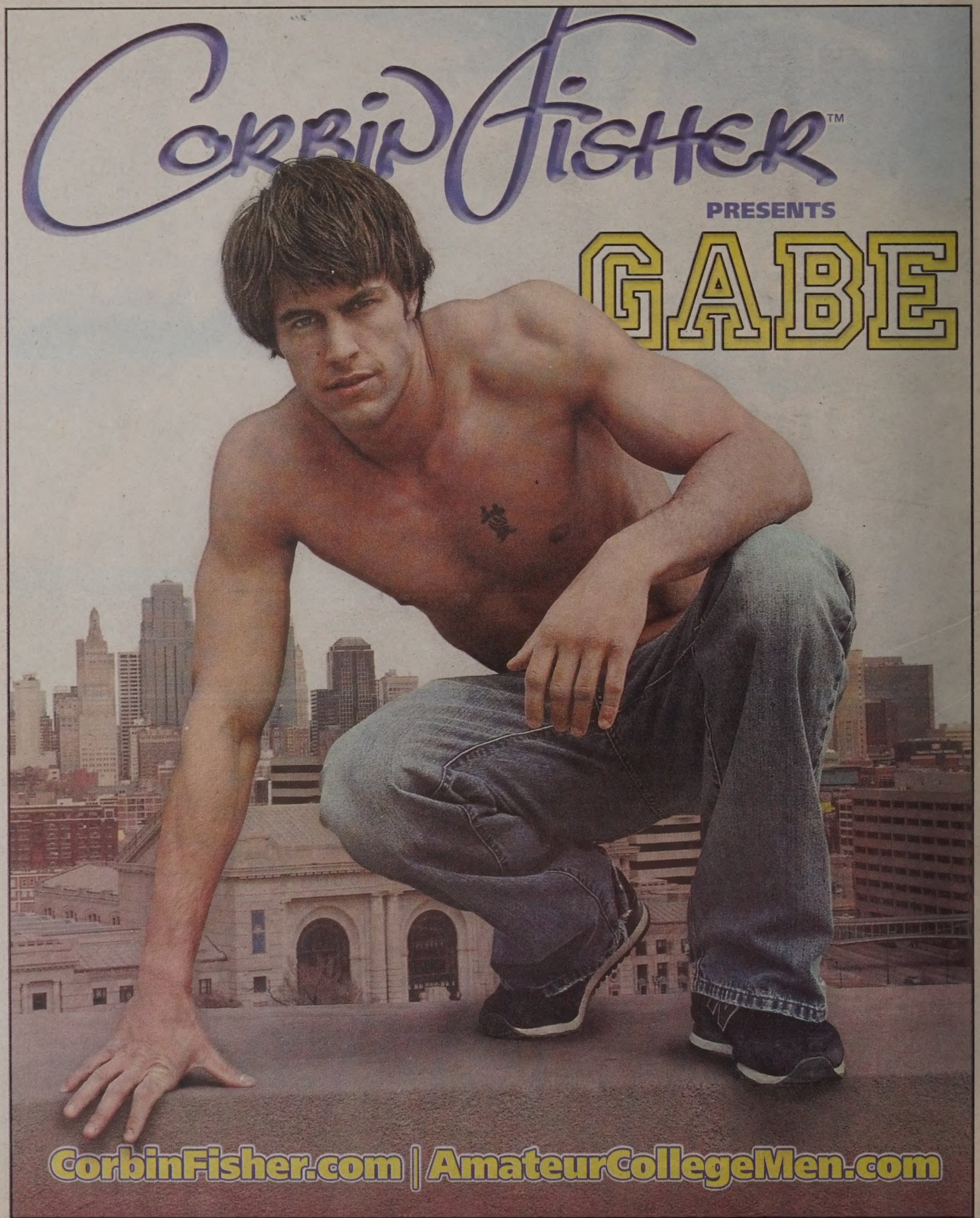
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